

Turkey condemns UN inertia over Syria

Border tensions soar as UN envoy visits Ankara

AGENCIES

Turkish Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan rebuked the UN Security Council for inaction over Syria yesterday as war intensified across the country, saying the world body of superpowers was repeating mistakes that led to massacres in Bosnia in the 1990s.

President Bashar al-Assad's forces used air strikes and artillery to bombard insurgents on several fronts in the 19-month-old conflict, which risks dragging in regional powers with no sign of a diplomatic breakthrough.

Turkey - increasingly entangled after having intercepted a Russian airliner carrying what it said were Russian-made munitions for the Syrian army, infuriating Moscow and Damascus - has led calls for intervention, including no-fly zones enforced by foreign aircraft to stop deadly air raids by Assad's forces.

But there is little chance of United Nations support for robust action given the opposition of veto-wielding Security Council members Russia and China.

"How sad is that the United Nations is as helpless today as it was 20 years ago when it watched the massacre of hundreds of thou-

sands of people in the Balkans, Bosnia and Srebrenica," Erdogan told the Istanbul conference.

The July 1995 massacre in Srebrenica was the worst on European soil since World War Two which killed 8,000 Muslim men and boys and bulldozed their corpses into pits.

Meanwhile, international peace envoy Lakhdar Brahimi was in Istanbul yesterday for talks with Turkish officials.

The United States insisted Turkey had been right to intercept the "serging military equipment" on the flight from Moscow to Damascus on Wednesday but Russia expressed outrage saying the cargo was entirely legitimate.

Brahimi, the veteran Algerian diplomat who is envoy of the United Nations and the Arab League, arrived in Istanbul from talks in Saudi Arabia.

The Damascus regime accuses both governments of arming the rebels who have been seeking to overthrow it in a conflict that has cost more than 32,000 lives in the past 19 months, according to human rights monitors.

A total of 151 people were killed on Friday, a Britain-based watchdog said -- 61 soldiers, 50 civilians and 40 rebels.

SYRIA CRISIS



Crowds of people watch as the Space Shuttle Endeavour is transported through the streets of Los Angeles on its final journey to its permanent museum home in Los Angeles, California on Thursday. Over the next two days, the 170,000-pound shuttle will travel at no more than 2 mph along a 12-mile route from LAX to its final home at the California Science Center. Nasa Space Shuttle Program ended in 2011 after 30 years and 135 missions.

PHOTO: AFP

Britain's PM ignores EU's Nobel win

REUTERS, London

Prime Minister David Cameron made no comment on the European Union's Nobel Peace Prize win on Friday, a stark contrast to the effusion of other EU leaders and a reflection of Britain's uneasy relationship with Europe.

Cameron is under pressure to take a tough line with Brussels to pacify eurosceptics in his Conservative party who fear it will lose votes at the 2015 election to the increasingly popular UK Independence Party, which wants Britain to quit the EU.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel and other European leaders were quick to express their pride and sense of honour when the Nobel committee announced its decision, but Cameron remained silent on the subject.

"I don't think we're intending on putting anything out," a spokesman for the prime minister said after repeated requests for comment.

NEWS IN brief

Shot fired at Obama campaign office

AFP, Los Angeles

A shot was fired Friday at a campaign office for President Barack Obama in the western US state of Colorado, shattering a window but injuring no one, police said.

Staff were in the office when the incident occurred mid-afternoon. "It looks like it was one shot that was fired into the structure," said Denver police spokeswoman Raquel Lopez, cited by The Denver Post.

A photo posted online by the Denver Westword showed a window broken at the front of the office. Police were searching for a "possible vehicle of interest," said Lopez, giving no further details.

UN renews Haiti peace mission

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council on Friday renewed a one-year mandate for its peacekeeping mission in Haiti, though with a staff reduction and focus on training police in the country.

In line with a recommendation from UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, the 15-member council cut the mission's staff from 7,340 to 6,270 and reduced its police force from 3,241 to 2,601.

Pranab's son wins Lok Sabha seat

PTI, Bherampore

Abhijit Mukherjee, son of President Pranab Mukherjee and Congress candidate yesterday won the Jangipur Lok Sabha byelection by 2,536 votes defeating his nearest CPM rival Muzaffar Hussain.

Abhijit polled 3, 32,919 votes, while the CPM candidate bagged 3, 30,383 votes, Election Commission sources said. Trinamool Congress did not put up candidate in the by-poll even after severing ties with Congress.

Pranab Mukherjee had won the seat by a huge margin of over 1.28 lakh votes in the 2009 Lok Sabha election. The by-election was held on October 10 as the seat had fallen vacant after Pranab Mukherjee was elevated to the highest office of the country.

Kejriwal released from detention

PTI, New Delhi

Arvind Kejriwal and his supporters, who were detained during a protest demanding resignation of Indian Law Minister Salman Khurshid, were yesterday released from the makeshift jail in Outer Delhi.

Kejriwal said they will continue their protest at Parliament Street till Khurshid is removed from the cabinet and arrested along with his wife for alleged irregularities in the functioning of a trust run by the minister and his wife Louise.

Both accused have denied the charges.

UK troops face Afghan murder charges

CNN ONLINE

Formal charges are expected against seven Royal Marines who were arrested this week on suspicion of murder involving an incident in Afghanistan in 2011, a British Ministry of Defense spokesman said.

The arrests were made after an incident in Helmand province, the spokesman said.

All seven are in the UK and will proceed through a military court system that mirrors the civilian legal system. The incident occurred after an engagement with an insurgent, and no civilians were involved.

Turkey to stage early local polls

REUTERS, Ankara

Turkey's parliament has given initial approval to a constitutional amendment bringing local elections forward by six months, a move seen as giving Prime Minister Tayyip Erdogan more time to prepare for an expected presidential bid.

The amendment was approved late on Friday by 360 votes, just short of the two-thirds majority needed for it to pass without a second reading. It will be put to a referendum in 60 days if President Abdullah Gul does not return it for a second debate.

US pledges support for Arab Spring nations

AFP, Washington

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Friday defended US support for Arab Spring nations as "a strategic necessity," vowing never to retreat amid a firestorm over the attack on a US mission in Libya.

"We will not return to the false choice between freedom and stability. And we will not pull back our support for emerging democracies when the going gets rough," Hillary told a US think tank.

"That would be a costly strategic mistake that would, I believe, undermine both our interests and our values."

She acknowledged that "diplomacy, by its nature, has to be often practiced in dangerous places," in her speech to the Center for Strategic and International Studies.



Hillary Clinton

Weeks before the revolution in Egypt against longtime leader Hosni Mubarak broke out in January 2011, Hillary said she had warned Arab leaders at a meeting in Doha that the "region's foundations were sinking into the sand."

"It was clear even then that the status quo was unsustainable. That refusal to change was itself becoming a threat to stability," Hillary said.

"So for the United States, supporting democratic transitions is not a matter of idealism. It is a strategic necessity."

But she cautioned that "achieving genuine democracy and broad-based growth will be a long and difficult process."

"It is way too soon to say how these transitions will play out. But what's not in doubt is that America has a big stake in the outcome," she added.

UN seeks Mali intervention plan

AFP, United Nations

The UN Security Council approved a resolution Friday that presses West African nations to speed up preparations for an international military intervention aimed at reconquering northern Mali.

The text unanimously approved by the council also urges authorities in Bamako and representatives of "Malian rebel groups" controlling the north to "engage, as soon as possible, in a credible negotiation process."

The council members warned that the process should be undertaken with a view toward "a sustainable political solution, mindful of the sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity of Mali."

In March, military putschists seized power in the capital Bamako, ousting President Amadou Toumani Toure, only to see the north and east fall to Tuareg rebels and militias linked to al-Qaeda.

The council asked UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon to work with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the African Union in order to submit to the council within 45 days "detailed and actionable recommendations" in preparation for the deployment of an international military force in Mali.

A first draft of the resolution called for a 30-day timetable, but 45 days was later deemed to be more realistic.

Zawahiri berates anti-Islam film

REUTERS, Cairo

Al-Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri said a film made in the United States mocking the Prophet Mohammad showed Washington was waging a "crusader Zionist war" against Muslims and he called for more protests outside American embassies.

Zawahiri praised last month's assault on the US consulate in Benghazi that killed four diplomats but stopped short of claiming responsibility.

Zawahiri said US authorities "permitted the film in the name of personal freedom and freedom of expression" but failed to practise those values in its treatment of Muslims imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay, Iraq and Afghanistan.

Travelling faster than light!

Mathematicians says they have answers in Einstein

THE DAILY MAIL ONLINE

Applied mathematicians have extended Einstein's theory of special relativity to work beyond the speed of light.

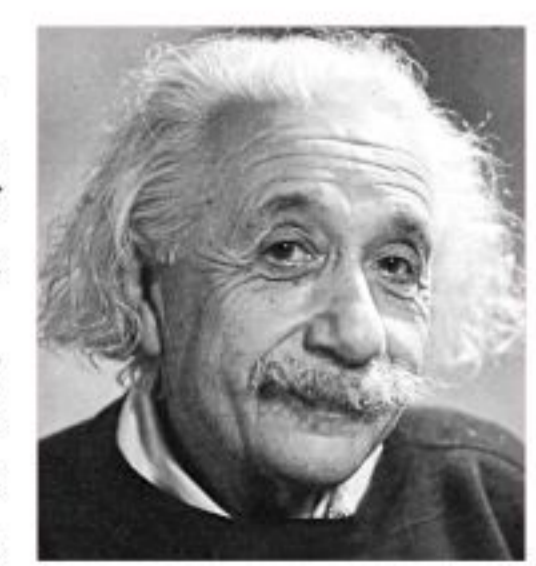
Einstein's famous theory holds that nothing could move faster than light, but academics at the University of Adelaide, Australia, have developed new formulas to describe travel beyond this limit.

The theory of special relativity was published in 1905 and explains how motion and speed is always relative to the observer's frame of reference.

As well as this, relativity introduced the concept of time dilation, which suggests that the faster you travel the more time seems to slow.

According to the mass-energy equivalence formula E = mc², an object travelling at c would have infinite mass and would therefore require an infinite amount of energy to reach c.

Now Professor Jim Hill and Dr Barry Cox in the University's School of Mathematical



Sciences have developed a new way to extend Einstein's sums to understand how faster than light movement can be possible.

Their formulas extend special relativity to a situation where the relative velocity can be infinite, and can be used to describe motion at speeds faster than light.

However, neither Einstein's equations nor the new theory can describe objects moving at the speed of light itself.

"We are mathematicians, not physicists, so we've approached this problem from a theoretical mathematical perspective," said Dr Cox.

"Should it, however, be proven that motion faster than light is possible, then that would be game changing."

"Our paper doesn't try and explain how this could be achieved, just how equations of motion might operate in such regimes."

Romney surge continues ahead of 2nd debate

AFP, Lancaster

White House challenger Mitt Romney took his campaign into the weekend with a spring in his step, as US President Barack Obama went behind closed doors to prepare for a crucial debate.

The first head-to-head debates of the race have shaken up the campaign arithmetic, and given Romney and vice-presidential running mate Paul Ryan momentum as they roll into the last weeks before November 6.

Until Obama's lackluster first debate last week, the Democrat looked to be on course for victory.

An average of polls conducted by the respected website RealClearPolitics gave Romney a one point lead nationwide, and showed him winning in swing states Florida, North Carolina and Colorado -- also targets for Obama.

But Obama retains narrow leads in Ohio, Virginia and Iowa, and most pundits, bookmakers and online prediction markets still expect the incumbent to win a second term with a majority of votes in the electoral college.

Benghazi Attack White House in trouble after Biden gaffe

AFP, Washington

Mitt Romney has accused Vice President Joe Biden of "doubling down on denial" as the White House struggled to combat a growing storm over the attack on the US consulate in Benghazi.

The latest exchanges battered an administration repeatedly thrown onto the defensive by the political reverberations of the attack on September 11 which killed US ambassador to Libya Chris Stevens and three other Americans.

White House spokesman Jay Carney was forced Friday to clarify remarks by Biden which appeared to contradict evidence that US officials refused extra security for US posts in Libya prior to the Benghazi assault.

"The vice president was speaking about himself and the president and the White House. Obviously he wasn't talking (about) the administration writ large," Carney said.

Biden said in his campaign debate on Thursday with Romney's running mate Paul Ryan that "we weren't told they wanted more security."

Republican nominee Romney pounced on those remarks as he sought to splinter Obama's reputation as a strong commander-in-chief, 25 days from election day.

"He's doubling down on denial," Romney said in Virginia.

"When the Vice President of the United States directly contradicts the testimony -- sworn testimony -- of State Department officials, American citizens have a right to know just what's going on."

Two US officials testified on Wednesday that requests for extra support for US posts in Tripoli and Benghazi had been refused.

The lack of a direct tie so far between Obama and the security situation at the Benghazi post gives the White House a plausible defense, but has not stopped fierce Republican efforts to make the president pay a political price.



Paul Ryan and Joe Biden



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