

Assad declares amnesty excluding 'terrorists'

Violence rages; refugees in Lebanon top 100,000: UN

AFP, Damascus

President Bashar al-Assad issued an amnesty for all crimes committed in Syria "up until today," with the notable exception of "terrorist crimes," state television said yesterday.

Assad, who has been fighting a 19-month revolt against his regime, "decreed a general amnesty for crimes committed before October 23," except for those carried out by "terrorists" -- the regime's term for rebels.

The decree applies only to criminals who surrender to the authorities and not those on the run, the report said. It was not immediately clear if the amnesty includes those in prison.

Meanwhile, violence raged across war-torn Syria yesterday, a watchdog said, eroding hopes of a ceasefire for this week's Muslim Eid al-Adha as proposed by UN-Arab League envoy Lakhdar Brahimi.

And in Geneva, the UN refugee

SYRIA CIVIL WAR

agency said the number of Syrians fleeing the civil war to Lebanon has now topped 100,000.

The two sides to the conflict have given a wary welcome to Brahimi's proposal but neither has committed itself to the plan, which envisages a ceasefire during the four-day Eid holiday that starts on Friday.

However, the Arab League on Monday dampened hopes of a truce, saying the chances of it coming into effect were "slim."

On the battlefield, warplanes raided a district of the northern city of Aleppo, where fighting broke out in several districts, the Britain-based Observatory said.

The watchdog also reported fighting in Damascus province, the eastern province of Deir Ezzor and Daraa in the south.

The Syrian Observatory said at least 115 people, including 43 civilians, were killed across the country on Monday, adding to a toll of more than 34,000 people killed since the anti-regime revolt erupted in March 2011.

Libya marks 1st yr since 'liberation'

AFP, Tripoli

Libya yesterday celebrates the first anniversary of its "liberation" from the regime of Muammar Gaddafi, even as fighting flared in a former bastion of the slain dictator.

On October 23, 2011, just three days after Gaddafi was captured and killed in his hometown Sirte, the transitional authorities declared the country's liberation, formally ceasing hostilities.

Fierce clashes in Bani Walid, one of the final bastions of the former regime which is accused of harbouring die-hard Gaddafi loyalists, have cast a pall over celebrations.

Families fleeing violence in the besieged Libyan city of Bani Walid said on Monday there were shortages of food and water and the city's hospital was under fire as militias loyal to the government shelled the city.

Pro-government forces moved up to Bani Walid early this month after a militiaman died after two months in detention there. Shaban was the man who found Gaddafi hiding in a drain pipe outside Sirte on October 20, 2011.

Two pro-government fighters were killed near Bani Walid on Monday. Libya state news agency LANA said on Sunday that 22 pro-government militiamen had been killed and some 200 wounded, but it did not say when.



Muslim pilgrims perform their prayers in the Grand Mosque of the holy city of Makkah on Monday. Over two million Muslims from around the world flood the Saudi city to perform the annual Hajj pilgrimage which begins tomorrow. PHOTO: AFP

Rivals chase swing votes after final debate

AFP, Delray Beach

Barack Obama and Mitt Romney took their head-to-head battle for the US presidency to key swing states yesterday after a feisty but inconclusive final debate.

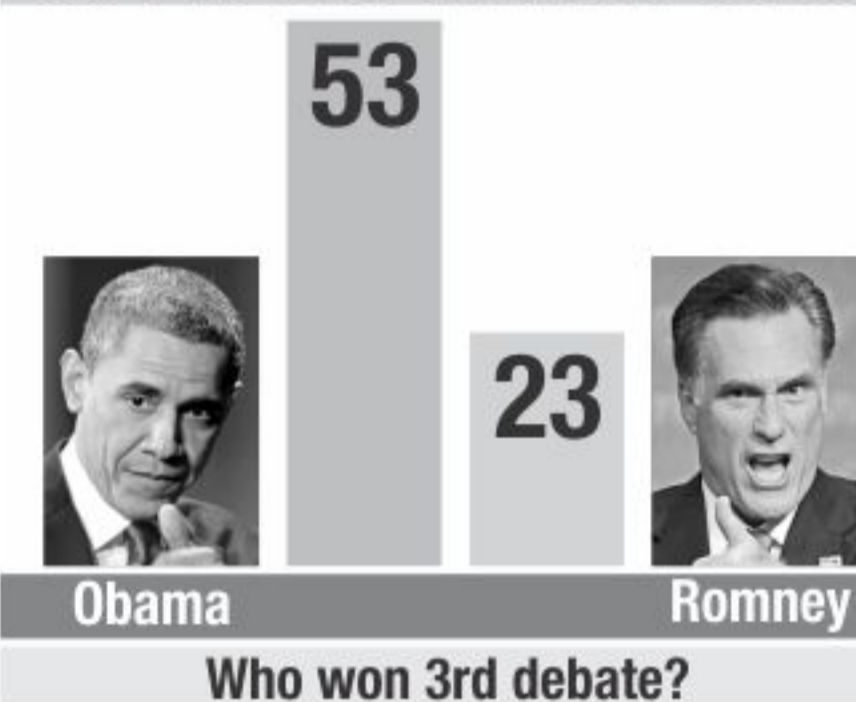
Post debate polling showed Obama winning Monday night's faceoff but analysts said Romney, who adopted more dovish-sounding foreign policy prescriptions that differed little from the president's, may have been helped by the encounter.

The focus will likely return to the economy as the two campaign in the key battlegrounds expected to decide the election, with the president speaking in Florida and Ohio and his Republican rival heading west to Nevada and Colorado.

The president scored the most Twitter-worthy remark, when he dismissed Romney's claims that he had scaled back the military to a level not seen since the early 20th century.

"Well, governor, we also have fewer horses and bayonets because the nature of

US PRESIDENTIAL POLLS



our military's changed," he said, to laughter from the audience.

The "horses and bayonets" barb caused Twitter message volume during the debate to hit a peak of 105,767 tweets, the micro-blogging service said.

The rivals are effectively tied in national polls after Romney surged following his first debate win in early October and started chipping away at Obama's foundation in the swing states that will decide the election.

Hall-Mark workers

FROM PAGE 20

Police and witnesses said a large number of Hall-Mark Group's different garment units' workers gathered in front of their office at Hemayetpur for arrears and bonus to see a notice that the factories were closed sine die.

The demonstrators started vandalising glasses of their factories, but police dispersed them after half an hour's effort.

The witnesses said the authorities were scheduled to pay the workers in the morning. Seeing the notice at around 8:00am, the agitating workers marched the highway, but industrial police stopped them on Singair-Hemayetpur road, they added.

A series of chase and counter chase along with rowdy clashes ensued after the workers broke police barricade and marched forward. The police charge baton, hurled teargas canisters and fired stray bullets to bring the situation under control.

A group of the workers later gathered on Dhaka-Aricha Highway at Jorpool in Hemayetpur, around one and a half kilometres away from their factory, and blocked the road at around 9:15am.

Additional police force from the capital rushed there and tried to convince them to go off the road in vain.

The police went on action at around 11:00am. Traffic movement resumed after the police drove away the demonstrators from the highway at around 11:30am.

The witnesses said long queues of vehicles were stuck from Gabtoli to Hemayetpur and from Hemayetpur to Savar bus stand on both sides of the spot.

A number of workers told reporters they were paid September's salary a few days ago and Eid bonus and overtime payments were supposed to be paid yesterday. Without prior notice the authorities shut down the factories all of a sudden.

Operation officer of Savar police Sazzad Rumon told this correspondent they were compelled to go for action as the agitators barricaded the highway and damaged vehicles. The police shot 125 rounds of rubber bullets and five rounds of teargas canisters during the clash.

Director of Industrial Police-1, Dhaka (Ashulia) Mohammad Golam Roufe Khan told The Daily Star seven of his men were injured in the clash.

The workers vandalised around 30 vehicles during the clash, he added.

The industrial police hurled more than one hundred rounds of rubber bullets and 11 rounds of teargas canisters.

Different units of Hall-Mark Group, owned by Tanvir Mahmud, have been shut down recently following labour unrest. On October 14, around 50 people were injured after some 15,000 agitating workers of Hall-Mark Group's readymade garment factories in Savar clashed with police demanding their due salaries.

The Hall-Mark Group came to the spotlight after being accused of embezzling huge amount of money from the Ruposhi Bangla branch of Sonali Bank in Dhaka.

Hall-Mark Managing Director Tanvir Mahmud was arrested in the city in connection with the loan scam.

Ruposhi Bangla Hotel branch of Sonali Bank responsible for illegally disbursing loans of Tk 35.47 billion to Hall-Mark Group and five other companies between 2010 and May this year.

Superman quits reporter's job to become blogger

DAILY MAIL ONLINE

Not a bird, not a plane, and no longer a reporter comic book hero Superman has quit his day job.

The fictional superhero's alter ego Clark Kent, who has been working as a reporter on The Daily Planet since the 1940's, leaves the newspaper business after becoming discontent with the state of 21st century journalism.

Instead Clark Kent is expected to start the next big online blog as a roving citizen journalist, according to writer Scott Lobdell.

In leaked pages from the forthcoming Superman issue, Clark Kent is getting an earful from Daily Planet editor-in-chief



Perry White about not filing enough Superman stories.

This in combination with pressures from the multimedia corporation Galaxy Broadcasting, which now owns The Daily Planet, leads to Clark

Kent walking out on his job.

'Superman is arguably the most powerful person on the planet, but how long can he sit at his desk with someone breathing down his neck and treating him like the least important person in the world?' Superman writer Scott Lobdell explains.

The new plot twist is one of many to appear in Superman issue 13 which goes on sale tomorrow in both digital and hard-copy forms.

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- Applicants with weak background in Economics may need to take remedial courses.

Last day of application: 20th December 2012;
Admission Test: (Written & Viva) 22nd December 2012 at 10:00 A.M.
For more information please visit our website

Application Forms are available for Tk. 800 at UCBL, Bashundhara Branch. A complete application includes: (i) application form (duly filled in); (ii) two passport size photographs; (iii) clean copies of certificates and mark-sheets (attested).

For Further Information, Please Contact
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Application Forms are available for Tk. 800 at United Commercial Bank Ltd, Bashundhara R/A Branch. A complete application includes: (i) application form (duly filled in); (ii) three passport size photographs; (iii) copies of certificates and mark-sheets (attested) and (iv) Photocopy of National ID Card.

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