

Turkey accuses OIC of inaction on Egypt violence

AFP, Ankara

Turkey's Islamic-rooted government yesterday accused the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and its Turkish secretary general of remaining indifferent to the bloodshed in Egypt.

"I would say I resign because ... I couldn't accept the stance of an Islamic organisation whose name carries the word Islam in the face of such brutality," Deputy Prime Minister Bekir Bozdogan said in televised remarks.

If the OIC's Turkish secretary general Ekmeleddin "Ihsanoglu had made such a decision," to resign over the OIC's inaction in the face of the Egyptian military-backed government's deadly crackdown on the Muslim Brotherhood, he said, "it would have had an impact."

The 57-member OIC, based in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, is the world's top Islamic body.

Bozdogan's comments came after Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday lashed out at the international response to the violence in Egypt, saying organisations including the United Nations and European Union should be ashamed of their inaction.



WORLD PROTESTS EGYPT BLOODBATH

Clockwise, Indonesian protesters are holding up a banner of US President Barack Obama during a rally to show their support for the Egyptian people. Moroccan protesters shout slogans in support of Morsi in Rabat. Demonstrators hold a banner reading "Supporting Legitimacy, Strengthening Stability" against Egyptian military in Paris. Activists of Pakistan march with an effigy of Egyptian General Fattah al-Sisi during a pro-Morsi rally in Karachi. Protest in support of Morsi outside 10 Downing Street in London.



AI denounces 'utter carnage' in Egypt

AFP, London

Amnesty International yesterday denounced the "utter carnage" in Egypt, after clashes between security forces and supporters of ousted president Mohamed Morsi killed hundreds across the country in the past week.

The London-based rights group also said the international community's response to the political crisis in Egypt, where the clashes between Islamist protesters and security forces left more than 800 people dead since August 14, was "weak and ineffective".

"A clear violation of international law and standards has been carried out in Egypt in what can be described as no less than utter carnage," Salil Shetty, Secretary General of Amnesty, said in a statement issued on Monday.

Amnesty urged the military-backed interim authorities to "take immediate action to prevent further loss of life, while bringing security and public order back to the streets".

"The interim government has already stained its human rights record -- first by breaking its promises to use non-lethal weapons to disperse pro-Morsi sit-ins and allow for the safe exit of wounded and then by justifying their actions despite the tragic loss of lives," Shetty added.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWSIN brief

Over 20,000 Syrians cross into Iraq: UN

REUTERS, GENEVA

More than 20,000 Syrian refugees have entered northern Iraq since Thursday in one of the largest crossings in the more than two-year-old conflict and the influx is continuing, the United Nations said yesterday.

Syrians began pouring into the Kurdistan region of northern Iraq last Thursday, taking advantage of a new bridge along the largely closed border, the UN says.

"It looks like the total from last Thursday to now is somewhere in the region of 20,000 or more coming across," Adrian Edwards of the UN refugee agency UNHCR said. "If not the biggest influx across the border at a single time then it is among the largest in the whole Syria crisis."

Iran to teach drone hunting to students

AP, Tehran, Iran

Iran's powerful Revolutionary Guards paramilitary units plan to teach drone-hunting to school students, an Iranian newspaper reported yesterday.

The report by pro-reform Etemad daily quoted Gen. Ali Fazli, acting commander of the Guard's Basij militia, as saying the new program will be taught as part of a "Defensive Readiness" lesson in high schools from late September.

He did not elaborate but the plan suggests students would be taught how to track and bring down drone aircraft by hacking their computer systems.

Flood evacuates 20,000 Russians

AP, Moscow

The Russian Emergency Situations Ministry says around 20,000 people have been forced to leave their homes since July in the wake of floods in Russia's Far East.

Ministry spokeswoman Irina Rossius said on Monday that the evacuation is underway in three Far East regions, some 5,000 kilometres east of Moscow. Some of the evacuees have moved into emergency shelters.

Authorities estimate that another 14,000 people were also affected.

Alexander Frolov, chief of the Russian Meteorological Service, told news agencies on Monday that floods have reached their peak in the Amur region. But the situation is expected to get worse in two other areas.

Pak violence brings armoured car boom

AFP, Karachi

As an unprecedented wave of killings and kidnappings hits Karachi, the Pakistani city's elite are splashing out to have their luxury cars made bomb and bulletproof.

The sprawling metropolis of 18 million people on the Arabian Sea is Pakistan's economic heart, with ranks of factories, import-export wheeler-dealers and slick bankers.

But it is also the crucible of the country's worst excesses of violence, criminality and inequality.

Bloody gang wars fed by ethnic and political bitterness, drugs and the Taliban, and a steady drum beat of gangsterism have created a culture of impunity under the stunned gaze of police.

Lawyers summing up in Manning sentencing hearing

AP, Fort Meade, Maryland

A US military judge is hearing closing arguments in Bradley Manning's sentencing hearing in the WikiLeaks case.

Col Denise Lind says she'll hear the summations yesterday at Maryland's Fort Meade before deliberating on the soldier's sentence for giving a mountain of classified information to the anti-secrecy group.

Manning faces up to 90 years in prison for his convictions on 20 counts.

Israel quietly maintains ties with Egyptian army

AP, Jerusalem

Israel is quietly and carefully watching the turmoil in neighboring Egypt while maintaining close contacts with the Egyptian military amid concerns that the escalating crisis could weaken their common battle against Islamic militants in the Sinai Peninsula, officials said.

As the week's death toll in Egypt rises, this alliance has put Israel in a delicate position. Wary of being seen as taking sides in the Egyptian military's standoff against Islamist supporters of the ousted president, Israel also needs the Egyptian army to maintain quiet along their shared border - and to preserve a historic peace treaty.

The 1979 peace treaty, Israel's first with an Arab country, has been a cornerstone of regional security for three decades. It has allowed Israel to divert resources to volatile fronts with Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian territories. For Egypt, it opened the way to billions of dollars in US military aid.

Although diplomatic relations have

never been close, the two militaries have had a good working relationship. These ties have only strengthened since longtime President Hosni Mubarak was ousted in a popular uprising two and a half years ago. With both armies battling extremist Jihadi groups in the Sinai Peninsula, near the Israeli border, Israeli security officials often say that relations with their Egyptian counterparts are stronger than ever.

With so much at stake, Israel has remained quiet since the Egyptian military ousted Mubarak's Islamist successor, Mohammed Morsi, in a coup on July 3. Morsi, who became Egypt's first democratically elected president, hails from the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamist group considered the parent organization of militant Palestinian Hamas that rules the Gaza Strip and is a bitter enemy of Israel.

Israel has not commented on this week's bloodshed, in which the Egyptian troops killed hundreds of Morsi's supporters who were rallying against the coup and demanding that he be reinstated.

Egypt on 'right path' Says foreign minister

AEP, Khartoum

Egypt is on the "right path", foreign minister Nabil Fahmy said yesterday in Sudan on his first trip abroad, after hundreds died in clashes between Egyptian Islamists and security forces.

"Yes there is a crisis but we are on the right path and I believe in the future," he said after talks with his Sudanese counterpart Ali Karti.

Fahmy said Egypt would push ahead with its "roadmap", an army-drafted plan providing for elections in 2014.

"The coming Egyptian political system will be a democratic, open regime and open to all according to constitutional rules that

Zuckerberg's Facebook wall hacked

BBC ONLINE

A Palestinian programmer has highlighted a flaw in Facebook's security system by posting a message on Mark Zuckerberg's private page.

Khalil Shreath used a vulnerability he discovered to hack the account of the Facebook founder and raise the alarm.

Shreath said he had tried to use Facebook's White Hat scheme, which offers a monetary reward for reporting vulnerabilities, but had been ignored.

Facebook said it had fixed the fault but not would be paying Shreath.

Shreath found a security breach that allowed Facebook users to post messages on the private "walls" of people who had not approved them as "friends", overriding the site's privacy features.

He wrote to Facebook's White Hat team to warn them of the glitch, providing basic details of his discovery.

After a short exchange with the team, Shreath received an email saying: "I am sorry this is not a bug".

Following this rebuttal, Shreath exploited the bug to post a message on Zuckerberg's page.

In the post, Shreath, whose first language is Arabic, said he was "sorry for breaking your privacy and post to your wall" but that he had "no other choice" after being ignored by Facebook's security team.



The picture shows smoke rising from the 1,117-meter Mount Sakurajima at Kagoshima city in Japan's southern island of Kyushu yesterday. The volcano erupted an ash plume up to 5,000 metres into the air. It was the 500th eruption this year of Sakurajima, which is about 950 kilometres southwest of Tokyo. PHOTO: AFP

Speedy train runs over 37 pilgrims in India

PTI, Khagaria, Bihar

A speeding express train ran over devotees waiting on tracks to stop it, leaving 37 people dead and triggering angry protests by locals who attacked the train driver and set on fire its coach besides engine of another train at Dhamara Ghat Station in Khagaria district yesterday.

The 'kanwaris' (devotees of Lord Shiva) were on the tracks after alighting from the Samastipur-Saharsa passenger when they were run over by the Saharsa-Patna Rajyarani Express travelling at 80 kmph, officials said.

Railway Board chairman Arunendra Kumar said the train was not supposed to halt at Dhamara Ghat and was given clearance to pass through the area but the devotees were on the tracks thinking they could stop the train.

Though the driver applied emergency

brakes, it was too late by then, he said, adding an internal inquiry has been ordered into the incident.

The pilgrims were going to nearby Katyani Sthan temple to offer 'jalabhishek' to Lord Shiva on the fourth and final Monday of the holy month of Shrawan when the mishap took place.

Soon after the accident, local people attacked the train driver.

However, the Railway Board chairman said the driver was safe without specifying.

Minister of state for railways Adhir Ranjan Chowdhury said that the express was travelling at a speed of 80 km per hour when the accident occurred. He said although relief trains carrying doctors and nurses were sent from Saharsa and Barauni, they could not reach the spot as the law and order situation there was not conducive because of protests by angry people.

CIA EX-AGENT SNOWDEN ISSUE Journo partner held at Heathrow UK lawmaker to ask police to explain detention

THE GUARDIAN ONLINE

The partner of the Guardian journalist who has written a series of stories revealing mass surveillance programmes by the US National Security Agency was held for almost nine hours on Sunday by UK authorities as he passed through London's Heathrow airport on his way home to Rio de Janeiro.

David Miranda, who lives with Glenn Greenwald, was returning from a trip to Berlin when he was stopped by officers at 8.05am and informed that he was to be questioned under schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000. The controversial law, which applies only at airports, ports and border areas, allows officers to stop, search, question and detain individuals.

The 28-year-old was held for nine hours, the maximum the law allows before officers must release or formally arrest the individual.



David Miranda and Greenwald

Miranda was released, but officials confiscated electronics equipment including his mobile phone, laptop, camera, memory sticks, DVDs and games consoles.

A British lawmaker on Monday called for police to explain why the partner of a journalist was detained, AP reported.

Keith Vaz, the chairman of the Home Affairs Select Committee, said that he wants to know why police stopped David Miranda, the partner of Guardian journalist Glenn Greenwald.

GORKHALAND ISSUE Mamata playing with fire, says CPI(M)

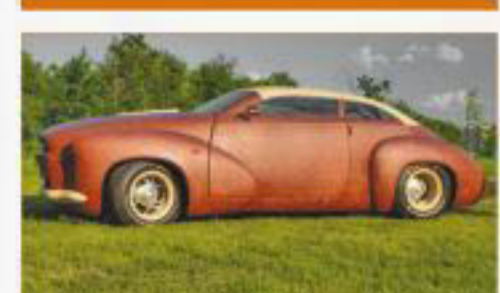
PTI, New Delhi/ Kolkata

CPI(M) yesterday said West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee was "playing with fire" in the way she was tackling the Gorkhaland issue and claimed she was "incapable" of understanding ground realities in some troubled parts of the state.

"It seems she is incapable of understanding the ground realities and the difference between Jangalmahal and the hill areas (of North Bengal). An economic package and some infrastructure development can bring some visible changes in the former, but in Darjeeling, one has to take into account the ethnic factors entwined in the whole issue.

"It seems the Chief Minister is oblivious of it. She is playing with fire. We can only hope that it doesn't burn her and the rest of the State," CPI(M) Polit Bureau member and Leader of Opposition in West Bengal Surjya Kanta Mishra said. He accused Banerjee of first "playing cosy" with Gorkha Janamukti Morcha (GJM) for "petty political gains", then going for a tri-partite accord in July 2011 and "now when GJM ups its demand after Telangana, she gets into a combative mode."

ODDLY enough



Leather car!

STAR DESK

An automotive enthusiast from Moscow is selling a unique hot rod that is completely covered in Canadian wood bison leather. And by "completely" I mean interior, exterior and even the engine...

According to the ad the vehicle's fiberglass body is covered in genuine Canadian bison leather.