

ISRAEL-PALESTINIAN CONFLICT Netanyahu vows 'fight to death'

Israeli soldiers shoot dead teen as fresh clashes erupt in the West Bank

AFP, Ramallah

Fresh clashes erupted yesterday in the West Bank and Israel's military shot dead a 13-year-old Palestinian boy after Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged a crackdown following attacks that killed four Israelis.

The spike in violence in the West Bank and east Jerusalem has led to international calls for calm, with concerns the unrest could spin out of control and memories of previous Palestinian uprisings still fresh.

As part of security measures following the recent attacks, Jerusalem's Old City remained closed to Palestinians for a second straight day.

Yesterday afternoon, Israel's army shot dead the 13-year-old Palestinian during clashes at a refugee camp near Bethlehem.

The teen was hit in the chest, making him the second Palestinian killed by Israeli fire in 24 hours, but further details of the incident were unclear.

On Sunday night, an 18-year-old Palestinian was killed during clashes in Tulkarem in the West Bank. Dozens of others have been wounded.

"He is not the first martyr, nor will he be the last, but he died for his homeland," his father Othman Suleiman told AFP at his son's funeral yesterday, attended by hundreds.

Palestinian youths throwing stones and firebombs have faced off against Israeli security forces using both live rounds and rubber bullets. Jewish settlers have also clashed with Palestinians.

The rioting has followed three attacks in recent days that have killed four Israelis and wounded several others, including a two-year-old child.

Late Sunday, Netanyahu pledged "a fight to the death against Palestinian terror" after meeting security chiefs immediately following his return from the United States.

Netanyahu, facing pressure from right-wing members of his governing coalition to respond forcefully, announced a package of new measures "to prevent terror and deter and punish the attackers".



A Palestinian boy holds up a banner reading in Arabic 'What if they destroy Al-Aqsa' during a demonstration in Gaza Strip yesterday.

PHOTO: AFP



Migrants from Syria walk along a platform after arriving from Salzburg, Austria, at Schoenefeld railway station in Berlin, Germany yesterday. Inset, German soldier distributes food to migrants on their arrival at the station.

PHOTO: REUTERS

Turkey warns Russia on airspace violations

AFP, Beirut

Turkey warned Russia yesterday against violations of its airspace by warplanes straying over the border from Syria, as Nato called an emergency meeting over the "unacceptable" intrusion.

Ankara, a Nato member, protested to Moscow after its F-16 jets intercepted a Russian fighter plane that violated its air space near the Syrian border over the weekend, forcing it to turn back. Two Turkish jets were also harassed by an unidentified MIG-29 on the Syrian border, Turkey's army said.

"Our rules of engagement are clear whoever violates our air space," Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu told Haber-Turk television.

"The Turkish Armed Forces are clearly instructed. Even if it is a flying bird, it will be intercepted," he added, but played down the idea of "a Turkey-Russia crisis".

Foreign Minister Feridun Sinirlioglu contacted his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, warning him not to repeat similar incidents.

Nato chief Jens Stoltenberg, meeting with Sinirlioglu in Brussels, criticised the "unacceptable violations of Turkish airspace by Russian combat aircraft".

SYRIA CONFLICT Kremlin says it hit nine IS targets in past 24 hours

Turkish airspace violations 'unacceptable': Nato

"I call on Russia to fully respect Nato airspace and avoid escalating tensions with the alliance," Stoltenberg said.

A US official said yesterday the Russian air space violation was probably deliberate. "I don't believe that this was an accident," he said.

Yesterday, Russia's defence ministry said its war planes had carried out strikes on nine IS targets including command centres and communications posts in three provinces in the past 24 hours.

The West has accused Moscow of mainly targeting moderate opponents of the

Series blasts kill 63 in Iraq

BBC ONLINE

At least 63 people have been killed in a series of car bomb attacks in Iraq, police and medical sources say.

One of the largest bombs was in the Shia-majority town of Khalis in the eastern province of Diyala, where at least 40 people were killed yesterday.

Another attack in the town of al-Zubair, about 15km (9 miles) south-west of the oil town of Basra, is reported to have killed at least 10 people.

A third bomb in Baghdad killed at least 13 people, police said.

At least 25 others were wounded in the blast in the capital's north-eastern neighbourhood of Husseiniya, according to Associated Press.

While Islamic State (IS) militants said they carried out the blast near Basra, no group has so far claimed responsibility for the other attacks.

However, IS militants have frequently bombed Shia areas and government targets as part of their campaign to destabilise the Shia-led government in Baghdad.

The militants see Shias as heretics.

The bombing in Basra comes as a surprise, correspondents say, because it is predominantly Shia - which makes it harder for Sunni jihadist groups to carry out attacks in the same way they do in Baghdad and other parts of the country.

The two other car bombs went off in areas north of Baghdad that are regularly targeted by jihadists, correspondents say.

MSF for probe into Kunduz war crime

AFP, Kabul

Pressure mounted on Washington yesterday to come clean over the apparent US airstrike on an Afghan hospital that killed 22, an incident the Pentagon chief said was "confused and complicated" but which medical charity MSF branded a war crime.

Doctors Without Borders (MSF) said Sunday it has closed the trauma centre, seen as a lifeline in a war-battered region with scant medical care, and demanded an independent probe into Saturday's devastating air raid.

President Barack Obama has promised a full investigation but the international outrage over the deadly incident has piled pressure on Washington for a more transparent probe.

"Under the clear presumption that a war crime has been committed, MSF demands that a full and transparent investigation into the event be conducted by an independent international body," MSF general director Christopher Stokes said.

Stokes also hit out at claims by Afghan officials that insurgents were using the hospital as a position to target Afghan forces and civilians.

"These statements imply that Afghan and US forces working together decided to raze to the ground a fully functioning hospital with more than 180 staff and patients inside because they claim that members of the Taliban were present," he said.

"This amounts to an admission of a war crime. This utterly contradicts the initial attempts of the US government to minimise the attack as 'collateral damage'."

HURRICANE JOAQUIN STRIKES Missing cargo ship El Faro sank Search for 33 crew ongoing

AP, Jacksonville

The Coast Guard said yesterday that a US cargo ship carrying 33 people that has been missing since it encountered high winds and heavy seas from Hurricane Joaquin sank, but that plans and ships will continue searching for the missing crew.

Chief Petty Officer Jon-Paul Rios said the Coast Guard and the owner of the 790-foot container ship El Faro concluded that the vessel sank after debris, containers and an oil sheen were found.

"We're definitely still looking for survivors at this time," Rios said. "It's still a very active search and rescue operation."

Three Coast Guard cutters, two C-130 aircraft, helicopters and a US Navy plane were searching across a wide expanse of Atlantic Ocean near Crooked Island. Another Coast Guard spokesman, David Schulein, said searchers found a significant debris field 88 miles off Samana Cay believed to have come from the El Faro.

The vessel's owner said previously that a container that appears to have come from the ship was found, along with a debris field that included what appeared to be pieces of container. Searchers also spotted an oil sheen and found a life ring from the El Faro.

CATHOLIC SYNOD MEETING Pope urges Church to move forward

AFP, Vatican City

Pope Francis said yesterday that the Church was "not a museum" but a place for progress, as members of a key synod started three weeks of debate aimed at reshaping Catholic teaching on the family.

Francis urged a spirit of "solidarity, courage and humility" as the Catholic Church's conservative and liberal wings began tackling hot-button topics from communion for remarried divorcees to acceptance of homosexuality.

The 78-year old reminded an audience packed with red-hatted cardinals and purple-sashed bishops that the Church was "not a museum to keep or preserve."

"It's a place where the holy people of God move forward," he told an audience that included a baby whose parents were among 18 lay couples participating in the synod.

At a mass Sunday marking the opening of the synod, the pope offered encouragement to both camps, defending marriage and heterosexual couples but also insisting the Church must have "its doors open to welcome all those who knock".

In an apparent boost to those who would have priests take a more merciful and inclusive approach to homosexuals, he said the Church must not "point the finger in judgement" of



Russia must cede border by end of yr Says Ukraine

AFP, Kiev

President Petro Poroshenko has stressed that Ukraine must regain control of its eastern border by the end of December even if full implementation of a February peace deal with Russia is delayed until 2016.

The Western-backed leader was seeking to clarify his stance in view of remarks by French President Francois Hollande at a media event held after a summit meeting on the crisis in Paris on Friday.

Poroshenko told Ukrainian television late Sunday: "The border is a key component of our sovereignty and we are not going to compromise over it."

Hollande said he saw no way the February deal could conceivably be implemented by its end-of-year-deadline.

Islamic State blows up Palmyra Arch

UN slams jihadists over destruction

BBC ONLINE

Islamic State militants in northern Syria have blown up another monument in the ancient city of Palmyra, officials and local sources say.

The Arch of Triumph was "pulverised" by the militants who control the city, a Palmyra activist told AFP news agency. It is thought to have been built about 2,000 years ago.

Unesco's director-general yesterday condemned the destruction of the Arch of Triumph by Islamic State jihadists, saying "extremists are terrified by history and culture".

Irina Bokova said the UN's scientific and cultural body would make every effort "to make sure that the perpetrators of the destruction are tried and punished".

IS fighters have already destroyed two ancient temples at the site, described by Unesco as one of the most important cultural centres of the ancient world.

"The Arch of Triumph was pulverised. IS has destroyed it," Mohammad Hassan al-Homsi, an activist from Palmyra told AFP yesterday.

The London-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a group monitoring the conflict, said sources on the ground had confirmed the destruction.

Syrian antiquities chief Maamoun Abdul Karim also confirmed the news, and told Reuters news agency that if IS remains in control of Palmyra, "the city is doomed".

In August, the group destroyed the ancient Temple of Baalshamin - one of the city's best-known buildings built

nearly 2,000 years ago.

The group has also published photos of militants destroying what it said were artefacts looted at Palmyra.

IS militants captured the historic site from Syrian government troops in May, amid a series of setbacks for forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad.



Cambodian protesters and rights activists march in front of the National Assembly building with mock cardboard houses to mark the 30th World Habitat Day in Phnom Penh yesterday. The protesters used the day to call on the government to stop forced evictions across the country.

PHOTO: AFP

NEWS IN brief

N Korea releases NY university student

AFP, Seoul

North Korea yesterday released and deported a South Korean man studying at New York University who was arrested back in April for illegal entry, officials said. Joo Won-Moon, a 21-year-old with permanent US residency, was repatriated through the border truce village of Panmunjom on the inter-

Rebels kill 4 soldiers in Indian Kashmir

AFP, Srinagar

Suspected rebels killed four soldiers during firing overnight near the heavily militarised border dividing Kashmir between India and Pakistan, police said yesterday. Soldiers discovered their colleagues' bodies yesterday morning during a search for militants in Hafura forest, around 140 kilometres (85

Indonesian rescuers find plane wreckage

AFP, Makassar

Rescuers yesterday found the wreckage of a plane carrying 10 people that disappeared during a flight in central Indonesia last week, the latest accident to hit the archipelago nation's aviation sector. The debris of the Twin Otter DHC-6 plane was discovered in jungles on the island, along with some of the victims, after teams of rescuers, planes and boats were deployed on a massive search. "The plane was found on land, destroyed," said local police chief Pudji Hartanto. "Some passengers were found dead." He did