

Syrian Forces Launch Fierce Assault

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian security forces backed by tanks and snipers launched a ferocious assault Sunday on defiant cities and towns, killing at least 70 people and possibly many more as the regime raced to crush dissent ahead of Ramadan. Corpses littered the streets after a surge in violence that drew widespread international condemnation.

Estimates of the death toll, which were impossible to verify, ranged from around 75 people to nearly 140 on a day when the attacks began before dawn and witnesses said they were too frightened to collect corpses from the streets.

The worst carnage was in Hama, the scene of a 1982 massacre by President Bashar Assad's late father and predecessor and a city with a history of defiance against 40 years of Assad family rule. Hospitals there were overwhelmed with bloodied casualties, suggesting the death toll could rise sharply, witnesses said.

Ramadan, which begins Monday, will present a critical test for the government, which has unleashed deadly firepower since March but still has not been able to put down the revolt. Daily demonstrations are expected to surge during the holy month, when crowds gather in mosques each evening after the dawn-to-dusk fast.

Suicide Bomber Hits Afghan Police HQ, 11 Dead

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up Sunday at the main gate of a provincial police headquarters in southern Afghanistan, killing at least 11 people in a city where Afghans have recently taken control of security.

Separately, five international service members were killed Sunday. The suicide bombing in Lashkar Gah was the latest in a string of attacks in the south in recent weeks that have included assassinations of high-level government officials in neighboring Kandahar and a coordinated attack against government buildings in Uruzgan province that killed 19 people last week.

The high-profile attacks have provoked a growing sense of insecurity in the very region where international military commanders say security has improved since the surge of U.S. troops last year. Lashkar Gah, the capital of Helmand province, in particular has been touted as a success story from the offensive by international forces — one reason it was one of seven areas handed over to Afghan forces earlier this month.

The attack early Sunday, which ripped a gaping hole in the station compound's wall, killed 10 police officers and a child, and wounded at least 12 people, said Helmand provincial spokesman Daoud Ahmadi.

Norway Gunman Unlikely To Be Found Insane

OSLO, Norway (AP) — It's unlikely that the right-wing extremist who admitted killing dozens in Norway last week will be declared legally insane because he appears to have been in control of his actions, the head of the panel that will review his psychiatric evaluation told The Associated Press.

The decision on Anders Behring Breivik's mental state will determine whether he can be held criminally liable and punished with a prison sentence or sent to a psychiatric ward for treatment.

The July 22 attacks were so carefully planned and executed that it would be difficult to argue they were the work of a delusional madman, said Dr. Tarjei Rygnestad, who heads the Norwegian Board of Forensic Medicine.

In Norway, an insanity defense requires that a defendant be in a state of psychosis while committing the crime with which he or she is charged. That means the defendant has lost contact with reality to the point that he's no longer in control of his own actions.

"It's not very likely he was psychotic," Rygnestad told the AP.

Iran Espionage Verdict To Come Within Week

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — The lawyer for two Americans jailed in Iran on charges of espionage said Sunday the court will announce its verdict within a week, dashing hopes for their immediate release after a final hearing in the case.

Shane Bauer and Josh Fattal, both 29, have been held in Iran's Evin Prison since shortly after their arrest along the border with Iraq exactly two years ago on Sunday. The case has added to tensions between the United States and Iran that were already high over issues like Tehran's disputed nuclear program.

The Americans' lawyer, Masoud Shafiei, had hoped that Sunday's final court session would result in their immediate release because it coincided with the two-year anniversary of their arrest and came near the start this week of the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, when pardons are traditionally handed down.

Shafiei said he and the two Americans presented closing arguments in their defense and the court announced the end of its hearings.

'Harry Potter' Conjures Up \$1 Billion Worldwide

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Harry Potter has joined the billion-dollar club.

Distributor Warner Bros. said Sunday that "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 2" crossed the \$1 billion mark at the worldwide box office. It's soon expected to pass "Pirates of the Caribbean: On Stranger Tides," which is this year's top grossing movie at \$1.03 billion.

The last of the eight films about the young wizard is the first in the franchise to reach the billion dollar mark. The previous best global haul was \$974.8 million for the original film, 2001's "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

With \$21.9 million domestically this weekend, "Deathly Hallows: Part 2" climbed to a domestic total of \$318.5 million. That tops the franchise's previous best of \$317.6 million for "Sorcerer's Stone."

But factoring in today's higher admission prices, "Deathly Hallows: Part 2" has not caught up to "Sorcerer's Stone" in terms of actual tickets sold.

Libyan Rebels Unmask Pro-Gadhafi Group

BY RAMI AL-SHAHEIBI
Associated Press

BENGHAZI, Libya — Libyan rebel leaders said Sunday their forces hunted down and clashed with supporters of Moammar Gadhafi who had been posing as rebel fighters to infiltrate the opposition's eastern stronghold. The overnight battle killed four from each side and added to a sense of crisis within the rebel movement.

Libya's shaken rebels are trying to rid their ranks of enemies after the assassination last week of their military chief, Abdel-Fattah Younis. The leadership insists the slaying was the work of Gadhafi's regime, but several witnesses have said Younis was killed by fellow rebels.

As officials pieced together events leading up to Sunday's gunbattle, they announced that a faction of fighters called al-Nidaa was actually made up of Gadhafi loyalists posing as rebels. The revelation could raise questions about the loyalty of other rebel factions and sap the movement of much-needed unity in its push to topple Gadhafi nearly six months after the revolt began.

Suspicions about al-Nidaa were confirmed, a rebel security leader said, when intelligence officials determined the group was behind two prison breaks on Friday in the rebels' de facto capital of Benghazi.

The prison breaks freed 200 to 300 inmates, including pro-Gadhafi mercenaries, fighters and other regime loyalists.

"These people took advantage of the chaos that resulted from the killing of Younis and entered and attacked the military prison



© 2011 MCT Source: ESRI Graphic: Los Angeles Times

and the (civilian) Kuwaitiya prison," said the rebel's deputy interior minister, Mustafa al-Sagezli.

On Sunday before dawn, rebel forces tracked al-Nidaa members to a factory where they were hiding out and sent in negotiators to try to persuade them to surrender. When they refused, the rebel units besieged the factory, killing four of the rebels, said rebel Information Minister Mahmoud Shammam.

A battlefield commander who participated in the operation, Ismail Salabi, said four of those posing as rebels were also killed and 25 were captured. He described them as Libyans from the southern part of the country who belonged to the Gadhafi Brigades.

"This is a hard hit for the fifth

column," he said.

Rebel forces also seized 40 of the freed prisoners, who were found hiding out with the fighters.

Talk of a fifth column — a group secretly sympathetic to the enemy — adds to the disarray that was set off with Thursday's killing of the chief rebel commander, Younis, in still mysterious circumstances. The leadership says authorities had arrested him on suspicion of mismanaging forces under his command and that gunmen attacked while he was being transported from one location to another under heavy guard.

Several rebels who witnessed the attack, however, said he was killed by his own side. Younis was Gadhafi's interior minister before defecting to join the rebels.

In the Nafusa mountains of western Libya near the Tunisian border, rebel forces said they were making gains in their push against Gadhafi forces.

On Sunday, they said they were in the town of Hawamid and advanced another six to nine miles (10-15 kilometers) toward the small town of Tiji in the last 24 hours.

"Hundreds of rebel fighters are surrounding Tiji," said Jamal Motawa, a 26-year-old rebel who was one of seven wounded in the fighting. Motawa had shrapnel in his left leg.

Pro-Gadhafi forces inside Tiji were under siege but continued to attack the advancing rebels with rockets, according to Motawa.

Tiji is on the main road from the Tunisian border to Tripoli, the Libyan capital. It is considered a strategically important town if rebels are to continue their advance to Tripoli, some 150 miles

(240 kilometers) to the northeast.

Rebels in the Nafusa mountains have been making modest advances against Gadhafi's troops, but fighting in the east has been stalled for months, with neither side able to make any significant progress.

Despite the slow pace of events on the ground, France, one of the rebels' main outside backers, is counseling patience.

In an interview published on Sunday, French Defense Minister Gerard Longuet addressed the growing pressure for a quick resolution to the Libya conflict, insisting that "impatience is never a good adviser" and that rebel fighters don't deserve the blame.

"Things have to move in Tripoli. To put it clearly, the population has to rise up," Longuet said.

NATO airstrikes struck three Libyan state television satellite transmitters in Tripoli on Saturday. The head of Libyan state TV's English-language section told reporters that three state television journalists were killed and 15 other people were wounded.

"We are aware of the allegations related to this subject," a spokesman at NATO's operational headquarters in Naples said Sunday. "We cannot confirm them since we have nobody on the ground there."

The NATO official could not be identified in line with standing restrictions. He noted that the Libyan government had on several past occasions claimed that NATO airstrikes had killed civilians, but that most of these proved to be false.

Guyana Airport Was Being Upgraded

BY BERT WILKINSON
Associated Press

GEORGETOWN, Guyana — The airport where a Caribbean Airlines jet skidded off a rain-slicked runway and broke apart is upgrading systems that help pilots to land, but all the new systems weren't yet operating at the time of the crash, Guyana's top aviation official said Sunday.

Officials and aviation experts cautioned it was far too early to say if the lack of the systems was a factor in the crash that injured about 30 people but miraculously caused no deaths. The Boeing 737-800, with 162 people on board, slid off the end of the runway and stopped just short of a deep ravine near the South American country's capital.

Canadian company Intelcan is installing an instrument landing system at Cheddi Jagan International Airport as part of a \$3.5 million upgrade in pilot aids. Civil Aviation Director Zulfikar Mohamed said the changes should be operational soon.

"Things will be better with a new ILS system that we are testing," Mohamed told The Associated Press.

An ILS helps pilots land by giving them a more precise reading of their angle of descent and the position of the aircraft down to 200 feet. It is especially helpful at night and when there is low visibility, although officials said Sunday that visibility apparently was not a factor in the accident.

Mohamed said there was light rain but visibility was 5 miles (8 kilometers) at the time the plane landed early Saturday. Paula McAdam, deputy director of the Civil Aviation Authority, said that "visibility was excellent for flying" at time of crash.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board announced it had dispatched a team to Guyana to assist with the investigation. It includes experts in operations, meteorology, airworthiness, survival factors and aircraft performance.

The NTSB also lowered the number of people on board the plane by one, to 156 passengers and six crew members. The airline had said Saturday that there were 157 passengers and six crew.

Aviation experts say mishaps such as these are typically a result of a combination of factors and

conditions. Possibilities during Saturday's rainy pre-dawn darkness include a sudden microburst, a malfunction or a misjudgment of the approach and landing by the pilots.

Patrick Smith, a commercial pilot who has flown into Guyana, said that in addition to the lack of the ILS, which is in place at most large and busy airports, the runway can be challenging because it is relatively short. But he said the runway is in good shape, the air traffic controllers are experienced and it's not an unsafe place to fly.

"Importantly, all these things together do not make the airport unsafe by any stretch," said Smith, who runs a website on aviation at www.askthepilot.com, in a phone interview from Boston, Massachusetts. "They do make it more challenging, less forgiving."

Mohamed said he would like to see the runway lengthened by about 2,500 feet, though the country does not have the money for the extension.

Scott Johns, a Denver-based former Air Force pilot and accident safety investigator who reviewed photos and other information about the incident, said it appeared the crew might have been in a less-than-optimal position on approach.

"It seemed like the crew perhaps made a decision to continue with a landing after an approach that was either fast or high or both," he said in an email.

The airport's relatively basic conditions were also evident in the response to the crash.

For more than an hour after the aircraft ran off the runway, rescue teams were groping in darkness, using flashlights and beams from fire engines and other vehicles to illuminate the area where the aircraft came to rest after splitting in two.

Transport Minister Robeson Benn said the government is "looking at all those issues like lighting and other stuff, but it is not completed as yet."

Bill Voss, president of the U.S.-based Flight Safety Foundation, noted that despite the dramatic crack in the jet after the crash, the incident follows in the path of similar recent overshoots and crashes with no or few fatalities, evidence of design improvements throughout the aircraft.

"It is really impressive. The engineers have gotten some things right," said Voss, whose industry-supported group promotes aviation safety worldwide, speaking from Alexandria, Virginia.

Two Planes Collide Over Alaska

TRAPPER CREEK, Alaska (AP) — Two single-engine float planes collided as they flew near an Alaska lake and one of them crashed and burned, killing the four people aboard, authorities said. The second plane landed safely despite significant damage.

The Cessna 180 was destroyed by the impact and fire, Federal Aviation Administration spokesman Ian Gregor told The Associated Press.

"It was engulfed in flames on the ground," Alaska State Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters said.

The crash around Amber Lake near Trapper Creek, 80 miles north of Anchorage, came nearly three weeks after another in-flight collision that remarkably left the 13 people aboard the two aircraft unharmed.

The second plane in Saturday's crash, a Cessna 206, sustained significant damage but was able to return to Anchorage International Airport and make an emergency landing.

Pilot Kevin Earp, 56, of Eagle River, was alone in the aircraft and uninjured, Peters said in a news release.

She said late Saturday that four bodies were recovered from the wreckage. Authorities initially said at least two people were killed.

There was no immediate word on how the collision occurred.

Where You Find Business & Professional EXPERTS! A NEW BREED OF YELLOW PAGES

Business AD-vantage

<p>APPLIANCE SALES/SERVICE</p> <p>Larry's</p> <p>APPLIANCE</p> <p>920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461</p> <p>LG Amana www.amana.com</p> <p>MAYTAG</p>	<p>BANKING</p> <p>Services Center Federal Credit Union 609 W. 21st, Yankton, SD</p> <p>First Dakota National Bank 225 Cedar St., 665-7432 2105 Broadway, 665-4999</p>	<p>CONCRETE</p> <p>Ankeny Construction</p> <p>• Flatwork • Residential & Commercial Kevin Ankeny 605-661-9351 • 605-665-1088</p>	<p>ELECTRICAL</p> <p>L&S Electric Harry Lane, Contractor 665-6612 • 661-1040</p> <p>Johnson Electric, LLP Commercial • Residential • Trenching 605-665-5686</p>	<p>GARBAGE PICKUP</p> <p>Independence WASTE</p> <p>"You bag it, We'll shag it!"</p> <p>We are now offering Commercial Waste Removal Service to the Yankton and surrounding areas.</p> <p>To start your service or get a quote call our office at... 800-515-0051</p>	<p>HEATING & COOLING</p> <p>Larry's</p> <p>HEATING & COOLING</p> <p>920 Broadway, Yankton 665-9461</p> <p>Carrier Turn to the Experts</p>	<p>HOME FURNISHING MOVERS</p> <p>Bentley Moving Pianos, Gun Safes, Furniture 605-661-9793</p>
<p>ARCH SUPPORT</p> <p>Boston Shoes To Boots 312 West 3rd, Yankton, SD 605-665-9092</p>	<p>BATH & KITCHEN CABINETRY</p> <p>The Kitchen Place 309 W. 11th Yankton, SD 605-668-2168 • 1-800-249-3837</p>	<p>COUNSELING SERVICE</p> <p>A Safe Place, Inc. Terre Berklund, MSW, CSW, PIP (605) 661-5176</p>	<p>FUNERAL & CREMATION</p> <p>Wintz & Ray FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>and Cremation Service, Inc. Yankton • 605-665-3644</p> <p>Garden of Memories Cemetery</p>	<p>HEATING & COOLING</p> <p>KPH Heating & Cooling</p> <p>1901 Broadway, Yankton 665-3970</p>	<p>INTERNET</p> <p>Your Gateway To Yankton's Virtual Community</p> <p>www.yankton.net</p>	<p>JEWELRY & FASHION</p> <p>Rita's Purse-O-Nalities 2101 Broadway, Yankton Mall 605-260-8362</p>
<p>AUTO BODY REPAIR</p> <p>The Collision Center 911 Chevy Lane, E. Hwy. 50, Yankton, 665-7670</p> <p>Justras Body Shop 2806 Fox Run Parkway Yankton, 665-3929</p>	<p>CLEANING</p> <p>FloorTec Professional Cleaning & Restoration 605-665-4839</p>	<p>CUSTOM MARBLE</p> <p>Midwest Custom Marble 215 Mulberry St., Yankton 605-668-0765</p>	<p>FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Wintz FUNERAL HOME</p> <p>Hartington, Coleridge & Crofton 402-254-6547</p> <p>wintzrayfuneralhome.com Trusted For Generations</p>	<p>HEATING & COOLING</p> <p>Kaiser Heating & Cooling kaiserheatingandcooling.com 665-2895</p>	<p>PRINTING</p> <p>Yankton Print Shop</p> <p>• BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS • COLOR COPIES • LAMINATING • FLYERS • POSTERS • ENVELOPES • AND MORE!!</p>	<p>MEDICAL CLINIC</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Family Medicine, PC 1101 Broadway, Morgan Square Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100</p>
<p>Riverside Auto Body www.riversideautobody-gonegreen.com 402-667-3285</p>	<p>DECORATING</p> <p>Yankton Paint & Decorating</p> <p>406 Broadway • 665-5032 "Since 1964"</p> <p>• Carpet • Vinyl • Wood • Ceramic & Laminate Flooring • Window & Wall Treatments Benjamin Moore and Pratt & Lambert Paint</p>	<p>DECORATING</p> <p>Steamway CLEANING & RESTORATION</p> <p>• Carpet & Upholstery Cleaning • Duct Cleaning • Fire/Smoke • Water Restoration • Mold Testing & Remediation</p> <p>665-5700 1-800-529-2450</p>	<p>PRINTING</p> <p>Yankton Print Shop</p> <p>• BROCHURES • BUSINESS CARDS • COLOR COPIES • LAMINATING • FLYERS • POSTERS • ENVELOPES • AND MORE!!</p>	<p>MEDICAL CLINIC</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Family Medicine, PC 1101 Broadway, Morgan Square Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100</p>	<p>PETS</p> <p>Canine Grooming Center, L.L.C. 718 Douglas, Yankton, 665-8885</p>	<p>MEDICAL CLINIC</p> <p>Lewis and Clark Family Medicine, PC 1101 Broadway, Morgan Square Yankton, SD • (605)260-2100</p>

Also online at www.yankton.net