

#PollToday



Does Bahrain have even more scope to develop its tourism sector?

Yes No Can't Say



America... is our enemy, we have no doubt about this. The Americans want to put as much pressure on us as they can

Hassan Rouhani
Iran's President

Rest in sight

Mali prison raid frees at least 47 inmates



Suspected jihadists stormed a prison in central Mali and freed at least 47 inmates including a jihadist fighter, injuring two guards.

Pakistan to probe hiring of 50 govt employees from one family

Pakistan promised an inquiry after a southern province was found to have employed almost 50 members of the same family.

Obama targets Trump in final speech on terror

President Barack Obama delivers his final address on the fight against terrorism Tuesday, in a speech aimed at his successor who has not yet publicly outlined his own anti-terror strategy.

14 killed in shootout with Mexico police

Mexican police working with military troops killed 14 suspected criminals in a shootout in the crime-plagued state of Veracruz on Monday.

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Aleppo

'Twitter girl' safe

Family flees army advance

Aleppo
A seven-year-old Syrian girl whose Twitter account from Aleppo gained international attention has fled her home amid heavy fighting, but she and her family are safe for now, her father said Tuesday.

With her mother's help, Bana al-Abed had been posting heart-rending tweets in English on life in the besieged eastern districts of Syria's Aleppo.

But as Syrian government forces edged closer to their home in recent days, the Abed family fled and the Twitter updates slowed.

"Our house was damaged in bombardment," her father Ghassan said by phone from east Aleppo, two-thirds of which has been seized by advancing government forces.

"The army got really close to our neighbourhood. We fled to another part of east Aleppo and the family is doing well," he said, adding that "the internet connection is very weak here."

Since late September, Bana and her mother Fatemah have garnered more than 211,000 followers by tweeting regular updates on battered Aleppo.

Pictures of massive white columns of smoke, captioned "Aleppo right now. We (are) so scared," are interspersed with shots of Bana reading or scrawling in a notebook.

The account captured the attention of novelist JK Rowling, who responded to a picture of Bana poring over an electronic copy of the "Harry Potter" series.

On November 29, Bana's account tweeted a photograph of a heavily damaged building, with the caption: "This is our house, My beloved dolls died in the bombing of our house. I am very sad but happy to be alive."

Several days later, Bana wrote that she was sick: "I have no medicine, no home, no clean water. This will make me die even before a

bomb kill me." Many of the tweets have included cries for help, but the messages grew increasingly desperate at the weekend.

On Sunday night, Fatemah posted: "We are sure the army is capturing us now. We will see each other another day dear world. Bye."

The account fell silent for 24 hours, prompting concerned followers to launch a #WhereisBana hashtag.

An update followed on Monday night, reading: "Under attack. Nowhere to go, every minute feels like death. Pray for us. Goodbye - Fatemah."

Online supporters of President Bashar al-Assad have bashed the account and sent Bana and her mother death threats.

And in an October interview with Danish broadcaster TV2, Assad alleged that footage posted by

Bana was "promoted by the terrorists or their supporters."

"It's a game now, a game of propaganda, it's a game of media. You can see anything, and you can be sympathetic with every picture and every video you see. But our mission as a government is

to deal with the reality," he said.



Syrian Bana al-Abed, who with the help of her mother had been posting heartrending tweets

Fatemah, the mother of Syrian Bana al-Abed, films her daughter