

Rockets hit Russian embassy

Syria's Al Nusra calls for attacks in Russia

Beirut

Al Qaeda's Syrian affiliate called for jihadists to attack Russia over its air strikes in Syria, as two rockets hit Moscow's Damascus embassy yesterday where demonstrators had gathered to back the intervention.

Some 300 people had begun to gather for a demonstration backing Russia's recent intervention in Syria when the rockets crashed into the embassy compound in the Mazraa neighbourhood of the capital.

Abu Mohamed Al Jolani, head of Syria's Al Qaeda affiliate Al Nusra Front, urged jihadists in the Caucasus to target Russians because of Moscow's air campaign.

"If the Russian army kills the people of Syria, then kill their people. And if they kill our soldiers, then kill their soldiers. An eye for an eye," Jolani said in an audio recording released late Monday. He pledged that Moscow's air war, which began on September 30, would have dire consequences. "The war in Syria will make the Russians forget the horrors that they found in Afghanistan," Jolani said, adding: "They will be shattered, with God's permission, on Syria's doorstep."

The head has also issued



Several hundred people, holding up portraits of Assad and Putin (L), gather near the Russian embassy in Damascus, just before two rockets struck the embassy compound

Russia will be defeated: IS spokesman Al Adnani

Beirut

The Islamic State group vowed yesterday to defeat Russia after Moscow launched air strikes against the jihadists in Syria late last month.

"Russia will be defeated," IS spokesman Abu Mohamed Al Adnani said in an audio recording posted online, calling on "Muslims everywhere to launch jihad against the Russians and the Americans."

Adnani said the United

States was weak and unable to fight the jihadist group and using Iran and Russia to strengthen its position in Syria.

"The United States is willing 'to forge an alliance with the devil,'" he said.

In contrast "the Islamic State is today stronger than ever," Adnani added.

The US leads a coalition that launched an air war against IS in Syria and Iraq last year.

bounties worth millions of dollars for the killing of Syrian President Bashar Al Assad and the head of powerful Shia

militant group Hezbollah. In a voice recording released late Monday, Al Jolani said he would pay "three million

euros (\$3.4m) for anyone who can kill Bashar Al Assad and end his story".

Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, slammed Washington for refusing to cooperate on Syria, saying, "Some of our partners simply have mush for brains".

"How is it possible to work together?" he asked in Moscow, adding that the United States declined to share intelligence on Syria.

Washington and its allies say Moscow is also targeting

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov yesterday described the shelling of Moscow's embassy in Damascus as an "act of terror" aimed at intimidating those who support Moscow's bombing campaign in Syria.

"It is a clear act of terror meant to scare supporters of fighting terrorism," Lavrov told reporters in Moscow, after two rockets struck the Russian embassy compound.

Nobody was killed during the incident which took place

Air force hits 86 'terrorist' targets in past 24 hours

Moscow

Russia's air force hit 86 "terrorist" targets in Syria in the past 24 hours, the defence ministry said yesterday, in the highest one-day tally since it launched its bombing campaign on September 30.

"In the last 24 hours, Su-34, Su-24M and Su-25SM planes carried out 88 sorties against 86 terrorist infrastructure targets in the provinces of Raqa, Hama, Idlib, Latakia and Aleppo,"

the defence ministry said in a statement.

The ministry said the strikes destroyed a command post outside the town of Anadan, located 16 kilometres (10 miles) northwest of Aleppo, which it said was used by IS fighters to coordinate their movements in the area. Other strikes in the IS stronghold of Al Bab, located in the Aleppo region, saw the destruction of a field command centre and an ammunition depot.

Western-backed moderate rebels and seeking to prop up President Bashar Al Assad's regime. Meanwhile, Russian

as some 300 people were rallying near the embassy in support of Russia's recent intervention in Syria.

#PollToday



Leading in nominations, will Taylor Swift win big in American Music Awards this year?

Yes No Can't Say

Rest in sight

'Shantaram' sequel hits shelves after a decade

A long-awaited sequel to "Shantaram" went on sale yesterday, 12 years after the novel became a huge back-packer hit.

Last S. Korea MERS patient re-diagnosed with virus

A South Korean man believed cured of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) has been re-diagnosed with the deadly virus.



Seven children among 13 killed in Pak landslide

Thirteen people, including 7 children, were killed in Karachi when a landslide struck their thatch huts as they slept.

Pakistan hangs eight men for murder

Pakistan yesterday hanged at least eight men for murder, officials said.

IS confirms killing of number two in US strike

The Islamic State group's spokesman confirmed the killing of the jihadist organisation's second in command in a US air strike.

Erdogan sees Syria link in Ankara attack

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Turkey has received intelligence indicating that the attack in Ankara may be linked to Syria.

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A man swims next to a rubber boat as refugees and migrants arrive on the Greek island of Lesbos after crossing the Aegean Sea from Turkey yesterday. Greece pledged Saturday during talks with its EU partners to open its first so-called hotspot reception centre on the island of Lesbos within 10 days under EU efforts to better deal with the massive influx of migrants

Palestinian killed in clashes

Bethlehem

A Palestinian was killed yesterday in clashes with Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Bethlehem, Palestinian medical sources said, the latest such incident in nearly two weeks of violence.

The death of Moataz Zawahra, 28, from a Bethlehem refugee camp, takes to around 30 the number of Palestinians killed, including alleged attackers.

Meanwhile, at least three Israelis were killed as Palestinian attackers shot at a bus and drove a car into pedestrians.

Yesterday's attack on an east Jerusalem bus saw one Palestinian with a pistol and another with two knives assault some 15 people, police said.

Two Israelis including a 60-year-old were killed, and



Palestinians carry a teenager who was injured during clashes with Israeli security forces in the West Bank city of Bethlehem

around 10 were wounded, medics and police said. One attacker was shot dead and the other was wounded.

In another attack at around the same time in an ultra-Orthodox Jewish area of the

city, a Palestinian rammmed a car into people at a bus stop and jumped out with a knife.

At least one person was killed and eight wounded, medics said.

The attacker was shot and later died, police said.