

# UN Chief Urges More Efforts to Address Crises of Poverty, Violence

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday urged more world efforts to address the root causes of poverty, violence and human rights abuses by promoting international friendship in "a shared spirit of human solidarity."

In his message to mark International Day of Friendship, the secretary-general said, "Poverty, violence, human rights abuses and other major problems on the global agenda have in common a failure to respect fundamental norms and values devel-



oped over millennia." "In confronting these crises, we must address their roots by promoting and defending a shared spirit of human solidarity," Ban said. "On a global level, this can manifest in many ways, from international assistance to political advocacy. And on an individual level, it can take the simple and timeless form of friendship."

When greed supersedes concerns about the health of our planet or its inhabitants, when fanatic attachment to ideology is pursued at all costs, and ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

## Iran, Turkey Influential in Future Muslim World: Leader's Aide

TEHRAN - A senior advisor to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has reiterated the importance of the commonalities between Iran and Turkey, saying the two countries are capable of playing a leading role in shaping the future of the Muslim world.

"Iran and Turkey are two very important countries among Islamic states and can influence the future of the Mus-



lim world," the Leader's aide on international affairs, Ali Akbar Velayati, said in a meeting with the Turkish Ambassador to Tehran Riza Hakan

Tekin on Sunday. He hailed the Turkish people's success in thwarting the recent military coup in the country and countering efforts

to break the nation's resolve and resistance, while highlighting Iran's support for the Turkish government and nation against the coup plotters.

At least 246 people were killed and more than 2,100 others sustained injuries when a faction of Turkey's army, using hijacked helicopters and tanks, clashed with government troops and people on the streets of the capital, Ankara, and the ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

## Britain's PM Declares New War on Modern Slavery

LONDON - The first ever government task force on modern slavery is to be established in Britain, Prime Minister Theresa announced Sunday.

The move comes on the first anniversary of a Modern Slavery law that May introduced when she was Home Secretary. May also announced Sunday a 44 million U.S. dollar package from Britain's aid budget to create a five-year international modern slavery and focused on high-risk countries, from where victims are regularly trafficked

into Britain. "It is hard to comprehend that such sickening and inhuman crimes are lurking in the shadows of our country. But the most recent estimates suggest that there are between 10,000 and 13,000 victims in the UK alone and over 45 million across the world," said May.

"From nail bars and car washes to sheds and rundown caravans, people are enduring experiences that are simply horrifying in their inhumanity," she added. *(Xinhua)*

## Slovenian, Russian Presidents Express Wish to overcome Hurdles to Cooperation

LJUBLJANA - Both Slovenian President Borut Pahor and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Saturday evening expressed the wish to find ways to overcome hurdles to cooperation. Speaking to reporters ahead of a working meeting, Pahor said the distance between Slovenia which is an EU and NATO member, and Russia, had widened in recent years.

"My wish is to try in a peaceful manner to remove the reasons for divergences...The freedom-loving world needs the cooperation of everyone," Pahor

was quoted by the Slovenian Press Agency (STA) as saying, Pahor highlighted the commemorative nature of the visit, whose centerpiece was the ceremony at the Russian Chapel below the Vrsic mountain pass. He said that "in these controversial times", the ceremony helped "preserve Slovenian-Russian friendship to the extent possible". "Slovenia needs friends and would like to have as many as possible. Slovenia needs peace and would like to have the opportunity to develop all of its talents," Pahor said. *(Xinhua)*

## Yemen Peace at Crossroads as Warring Sides Split over Roadmap by Murad Abdu

ADEN, Yemen - The Yemeni government announced Sunday that its delegation to the Kuwait-based talks is ready to sign a UN-proposed agreement in a bid to bring security and stability to the war-torn Middle East country.

The Houthi delegates demanded the formation of a national government as a pre-condition to pursue the talks with the Yemeni government and refused to sign the UN deal, according to sources based in Kuwait.

The exiled government



official news agency Saba said that "President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi chaired a high-ranking meeting and announced

his full acceptance of the UN-proposed roadmap." A source close to Yemen's Presidency confirmed to Xinhua that "the country's

legitimate political leadership officially approved the draft agreement presented by the United ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

## Top UN Relief Official to Access Situation in South Sudan

JUBA - A Top United Nations relief official is due in South Sudan for a three-day visit next week to see first-hand the appalling humanitarian situation and call for urgent action to alleviate suffering, the UN said on Saturday.

A statement from the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Stephen O'Brien, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, will visit the youngest nation from Aug. 1 to 3.

"During the three-day mission O'Brien will meet with people affected by the humanitarian crisis, senior government officials and humanitarian partners," the statement said. Tens of thousands ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

## Turkey Dismisses 1,389 Pro-Coup Soldiers in Military Overhaul

ANKARA - A total of 1,389 pro-coup soldiers including President Erdogan's military aide were discharged from Turkish Armed Forces, the state Official Gazette announced on Sunday.

According to state-run Anadolu Agency, the discharged personnel include Col. Ali Yazici, former aide to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan; Lt. Col. Levent Turkkan, former aide to Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar.

Out of the total 1,389 names dismissed, 1,196



serve in Turkey's gendarmerie forces.

Under the statutory decree, Turkey's land, naval and air forces are now directly answerable to the Defense Ministry.

In addition, Deputy Prime

Ministers and justice, foreign and interior ministers will also be included to the Supreme Military Council (YAS). The decree also closes all of Turkey's war academies, military ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## US, Israel Drones Gather Data for Syria Militants: Iran Official

TEHRAN - Washington and the Tel Aviv regime supply the Takfiri militants in Syria with intelligence obtained from the drones they fly over Syria, an Iranian official says.

"The US and Israel have a direct ground and air presence amid clashes in Syria. They collect data using drones, provide terrorists with precise intelligence and define specific targets for them," Hossein Sheikholeslam told Iran's Tasnim news agency on Sunday.

Sheikholeslam, who is an adviser to Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, further accused Washington of seeking "to divide the region based on nationalities" in an attempt to justify the existence of Israel with a "Jewish nationality." Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian official stressed that the Islamic Republic ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## Hunger, Poverty, Malnutrition Ravages NE Nigeria: Official

LAGOS - Nigeria is at war with hunger, poverty and malnutrition in restive northeastern states following the activities of Boko Haram in the area, an official has said.

Senator Ali Ndume, who is representing Borno South Senatorial zone, disclosed this on Saturday after a meeting with President Muhammadu Buhari in Abuja, the nation's capital city.

"We are crying out, we are looking up to you to help us in the northeast particularly, in Borno, the aftermath of the insurgency, which is almost over, is the issue of hunger, poverty and malnutrition," he added.

"For three years our people who mostly depended on subsistence farming, did not go to their farms, and ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

## Iraqi Forces Launch Offensive to Clear IS Militants from Rural Areas Near Fallujah

RAMADI, Iraq - Iraqi security forces launched an operation on Saturday to flush out the Islamic State (IS) militants from rural areas near the newly-freed city of Fallujah in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said.

Backed by the U.S.-led heavy bombardment on the IS positions in Jazirat al-Khaldiyah area, a sprawling agricultural land to the northwest of Fallujah, security forces and allied paramilitary units Hashd Shaabi advanced from three directions, forcing the

IS militants in the area to retreat, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The clashes killed some 50 IS militants, including three snipers, with three IS vehicles carrying heavy machine guns destroyed, he said. Meanwhile, explosive experts defused some 150 bombs planted on the roads or in the houses across the area, the source added.

The offensive came after the government forces had reclaimed key cities and towns, such as Ramadi and Fallujah along the Euphrates River. *(Xinhua)*

## Kenya to Strengthen Protection of Archaeological Sites: Officials

NAIROBI - The Kenyan government has partnered with industry, bilateral partners and academia to promote conservation of the country's pre-historic sites, officials said.

Cabinet Secretary for Sports, Culture and Arts, Hassan Wario said protection of these archaeological sites is in line with the government's goal to preserve the country's rich history.

"Kenya is endowed with a vast wealth of archaeo-

logical sites that have put us on the world map. They not only remind us about our past but are a source of tourism revenues," Wario said on Friday evening during the award ceremony for heroes who contributed immensely to discovery of ancient fossils in Kenya and the larger eastern African region.

The East African nation became the first country on ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Nieghbor News

### Chinese Brokerages See Profit Declines in H1

BEIJING - All 25 listed securities firms posted sharp falls in net profits for the January-June period, according to their half-year financial reports or preliminary earnings estimate filed with stock exchanges.

Guotai Junan Securities, an industry leader, saw its profits shrink 47.91 percent from a year ago, while Shanxi Securities registered the biggest drop of 84.93 percent. Weighed on by a market downturn, brokerage incomes from submission fees and leverage

financing fell substantially.

Chinese stocks remained bearish in the first half of the year with the benchmark Shanghai Composite Index slumping more than 17 percent as market sentiment has yet to recover from a market crash last summer.

However, analysts said that the performance of brokerages started to improve in the second quarter and a mild recovery could be expected during the rest of the year. *(Xinhua)*

### UN Envoy in Tehran for Talks on Syria

TEHRAN - UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura arrived in Iran's capital Tehran on Sunday for talks with senior Iranian officials on Syria.

De Mistura has met with Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari and discussed the latest developments in the Syrian civil war, state IRIB TV reported without expanding on the details of the talks.

Earlier, Press TV said

that the UN envoy is also scheduled to meet with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to discuss the upcoming peace talks about the Arab country in Geneva, Switzerland.

Speaking at a news conference in Berlin on July 22, De Mistura said "We are determined to actually look for a proper date in August for re-launching the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva." *(Xinhua)*

### Raja Farooq Haider Elected New AJK PM

MUZAFFARABAD - Pakistan Muslim League -N's Raja Farooq Haider was elected Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) prime minister and Leader of the House by the AJK Legislative Assembly on Sunday by a vast majority.

The Legislative Assembly elected him Leader of the House by a majority of 38 votes out of 48. AJK President Sardar Mohammad Yaqoob Haider administered

oath to Haider late Sunday evening.

Chaudhry Muhammad Yaseen of PPP and Ghulam Mohiuddin Dewan, a joint candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf and Muslim Conference, received five votes each.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had nominated Raja Farooq Haider as Leader of the House for the newly-elected AJK Legislative Assembly on Wednesday. *(Dawn)*

### Turkmenistan, Singapore Mull Transport Co-Op

ASHGABAT - A meeting with Yap Ong Heng, special envoy of Singapore's transport minister, was held in the Turkmen foreign ministry, the Turkmen ministry said July 30.

According to the message, during the meeting the sides discussed the issues of bilateral cooperation in the field of transport, in particular, aviation and maritime transport.

The Turkmen side reviewed Singapore's achievements in the

transport sector and offered its staff training services in the field of civil aviation and maritime transport, the message said.

According to the message, the two sides also discussed the possibility of holding training and courses for Turkmen specialists. The importance of a dialogue was stressed at the meeting to further expand the bilateral cooperation in all fields between the two countries, the message said. *(Trend)*

### Uzbekistan Spends \$1.8 Billion on Investment Projects

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan used foreign investments and loans in the amount of \$1.8 billion in H1 2016 that is by 17.2 percent more than in the same period of 2015, according to the country's Economy Ministry and State Statistics Committee.

Meanwhile, the volume of direct foreign investments amounted to \$1.2 billion.

Total volume of used capital investments increased by 11.8 percent in January-June 2016, foreign investments and loans accounted for more than 23 percent of the total volume, according to the Uzbek Statistics Committee.

In January-June 2015, Uzbekistan received capital investments from all sources of funding in the amount of \$7.3 billion in its equivalent, including more than \$1.5 billion, or 21.3 percent foreign investments and loans, including \$1.2 billion - foreign direct investments. Uzbekistan completed the implementation of 43 industrial projects worth \$1.9 billion in H1 2016 as part of an investment program. Meanwhile, the implementation of 72 new large investment projects with a total cost of more than \$3.4 billion has been started in the country. *(Trend)*