

UN Chief Designate Vows to Reform UN after Swearing in

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres vowed here Monday to reform the UN system to better support global efforts to maintain world peace, promote development and combat climate change.

Guterres made the promise after he was sworn in as the ninth secretary-general of the United Nations whose five-year term will start at Jan. 1, 2017. Speaking to the 193-member UN General Assembly, Guterres said "the UN must be ready to change" to respond to challenges worldwide, to



recognize its shortcomings, and to reform the way it works.

The most serious shortcoming, as noted by Guterres, is the inability to prevent crises. "The United Nations was born from war. Today we must be here for peace," he said. "From the most severe crises in Syria, Yemen, South Sudan and elsewhere, to long-standing disputes, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, we need more mediation, arbitration and creative diplomacy," he added. Guterres promised a management ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

UN Chief to Issue Call for \$1 Bln for Emergency Humanitarian Funding

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is scheduled to open the annual pledging conference for the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) on Tuesday morning at UN Headquarters in New York, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here on Monday.

Since it was established in 2006, CERF's annual funding target of 450 million U.S. dollars have remained unchanged,

even as global humanitarian needs have quadrupled since then, he said.

With nearly 130 million people in need of assistance today, the secretary-general will call for an increase of the Fund's annual target to 1 billion U.S. dollars by 2018, he said.

The event will be chaired by Under-Secretary-General and Emergency Relief Coordinator Stephen O'Brien, he added. *(Xinhua)*

Over 91,000 Displaced by Fighting in Iraq's Mosul: IOM

GENEVA - A total of 91,404 men, women, and children have fled the Iraqi city of Mosul since military operations to reclaim one of the Islamic State (IS)'s last strongholds began in October, the International Organization for Migration (IOM) said Monday.

Up from 81,108 a week ago, the latest figures from the organization revealed that over 15,200 families have been forced to flee their homes as a result of ongoing fighting in the northern city.

According to statistics, 76 percent of those displaced by military operations are living in formal camps.

A further 14 percent have taken shelter in private settings, while seven percent are at emergency sites, two percent in critical shelter arrangements, and one percent in screening areas. Supported by Kurdish Peshmerga fighters, Iraqi troops kicked off opera-



tions on Oct. 17 to recapture the city which fell into IS hands in June 2014 after government forces fled, enabling IS militants to take control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions. *(Xinhua)*

UN Pays Tribute to Outgoing Secretary-General Ban Ki-Moon

UNITED NATIONS - The UN General Assembly passed by acclamation a resolution on Monday, honoring retiring Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and then speakers representing major geo-political groups rang out praises to a man who grew up during the Korean war with help from the world organization.

"On behalf of the General Assembly, I offer profound thanks to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon for his service to the United Nations," said Peter Thomson,

president of the General Assembly. "I wish also to thank Mrs. Ban Soon-taek on behalf of you all, for the steadfast support she gave throughout the decade of her husband's work and for her own dedication to the good works of the United Nations."

"I also seize this opportunity to pay tribute to Deputy-Secretary-General Jan Eliasson for his long service to the United Nations," continued Thomson. "He will ever serve as an exemplar for young ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

UN Warns Brazil of Anti-Poverty Setback

RIO DE JANEIRO - Brazil's anti-poverty fight could suffer a setback due to economic strife, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) warned on Monday.

Maristela Baioni, UNDP's representative in Brazil, told a seminar in Sao Paulo that the organization was "on alert for possible setbacks in Brazil's actions against poverty" in the current economic crisis, the Agencia Brasil news agency reported. "We've had a reduction in poverty in recent years, but today's crisis might see the return of former poverty levels," Baioni

told the seminar. Philip Alston, UN's Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, issued a much stronger warning on Friday, saying Brazil's proposed austerity measures could "breach human rights."

The Brazilian government's proposal to cap public spending on social programs for the next two decades is "entirely incompatible with the country's human rights



obligations" and will "put an entire generation at risk," Alston said in a statement.

Didier Trebuçq, UNDP's Brazil country director at, has called on the nation

to step up human development programs to prevent "the risk of plunging back into poverty" some 224 million people, or 35 percent of Latin America's population. *(Xinhua)*

Merkel, Hollande Call for Extending EU Sanctions Against Russia

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel and French President Francois Hollande called for an extension of European Union (EU) sanctions against Russia here on Tuesday.

As the implementation of the Minsk Agreement in the Ukraine conflict is "very slow", it will be "necessary" to extend the sanctions against Russia once again, Merkel said on Tuesday during a



meeting with Hollande at the chancellery in Berlin. Hollande also said that

"there are always the same blockades" in the conflict. *(Xinhua)*

Spanish PM Holds Phone Conversation with Trump

MADRID - Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy confirmed that on Monday he had finally spoken to the U.S. president-elect Donald Trump 34 days after Trump's election. According to Spanish media reports, Trump called Rajoy on Monday afternoon in reply to the Spanish prime minister's attempts to contact him in the days following his election.

The pair reportedly discussed during the phone call a slew of issues, including security and defense, the effects of the "Brexit" and the need for Spain and Europe to maintain sustainable economic growth.

Rajoy tweeted after the phone call, confirming that he had held a "cordial telephone conversation...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Slovenia Lauds Montenegro's Progress on Its Path to EU and NATO



LJUBLJANA - Slovenian President Borut Pahor praised Montenegro's "exemplary" progress on its path to NATO and EU membership when he hosted the visiting Montenegrin counterpart Filip Vujanovic on Monday.

The two presidents addressed the press in Ljubljana after agreements were signed on cooperation in culture and education and a programme of international development aid for 2016-2017, which marks their further boost bilateral ties, according to the Slovenian Press Agency (STA).

Pahor praised Montenegro as a role model, a reference point in the Western Balkans in terms of NATO and EU enlargement, expressing Slovenia's support and hope that the process ends with Montenegro's membership of both. "This would dispel the doubts, present both in the EU and NATO, concerning the benefits and success of enlargement," Pahor said.

While answering questions from the press about whether it was really necessary, given the complex international situation, for Montenegro to join NATO and take sides, Vujanovic said that NATO membership was Montenegro's strategic interest, but this interest was not directed against anyone. *(Xinhua)*

Neighbor News

Chinese Envoy Calls on IAEA to Deepen Cooperation on Nuclear Energy, Technology

UNITED NATIONS - A Chinese envoy Monday called on the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to deepen cooperation on nuclear energy and nuclear technology and further increase its technical assistance to developing countries.

Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, made the appeal at a UN General Assembly meeting on the work of the IAEA.

Wu said the international community is facing chal-

lenges, such as balancing the peaceful use of nuclear energy, the prevention of nuclear weapons' proliferation, and practically strengthening nuclear safety and nuclear security.

He said China hopes that the IAEA will fully perform its duties and focus on promoting technical cooperation in the nuclear field to let the international community share the outcomes of nuclear energy development. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Iraq Must Preserve Territorial Integrity, Boost National Unity: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says foreign powers are still hatching divisive plots in Iraq in line with their own interests, stressing the importance of maintaining the Arab country's territorial integrity and national unity.

"Unfortunately, the deeds and words of certain big powers show that they are still after sowing discord among the Iraqi people," Rouhani said in a meeting

with the head of the Iraqi National Alliance (INA), Ammar al-Hakim, in Tehran on Tuesday.

He added that those, who are against Iraq's unity and territorial integrity, seek to create discord among Iraqi people of various ethnicities and faiths in order to prepare the ground for advancing their own plots.

The Iranian president hailed as very valuable the recent political and military achievements ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

CPEC to Address Pakistan's Energy Shortage, Boost Regional Economy: FM Advisor

ISLAMABAD - A senior Pakistani official said on Tuesday that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will help address the country's energy shortage and bring enormous economic potential not only for Pakistan but also for different regions including the Gulf.

Addressing the inaugural ceremony of a three-day conference on CPEC and regional integration in Islamabad, the prime minister's adviser on foreign affairs Sartaj Aziz stressed that various power projects under the CPEC are

being implemented and will add about 17,000 megawatts of electricity to the national grid.

"About six to seven thousand megawatts will come in the system in the next two years' time. Overcoming the energy shortages will also help enhance our GDP growth which is expected to move to 5 percent this year," the adviser said. Meanwhile, he emphasized the need to diversify Pakistan's exports so as to enlarge the benefits brought by the CPEC. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Tajikistan, Sri Lanka Sign Five Cooperation Documents

COLOMBO - Five cooperation documents on Tuesday were signed between Tajikistan and Sri Lanka during the state visit of the Tajik President to Sri Lanka.

The documents were signed by Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon and Sri Lankan President of Maithripala Sirisena, the press service of the Tajik President said.

The heads of states signed a joint statement on deepening bilateral relations, the memorandum on political consultations between the foreign ministries, the inter-governmental memorandum on cooperation in the tourism sphere, the inter-governmental agreement on cooperation in sports, the memorandum between the ministries of economy of the countries.

During the talks, the Presidents discussed creation of the inter-governmental commission on trade and economic cooperation and business council of the two countries.

The Tajik side also invited the President of Sri Lanka to visit to Tajikistan. *(Monitoring Desk)*

Turkmenistan Planning New Projects in Gas, Chemical Industry

ASHGABAT - Active work is underway in Turkmenistan on the development and research of new directions in the gas and chemical industry, according to the report by Chairman of the Turkmen State Concern Ashirguli Begliyev read at the conference "Oil and Gas of Turkmenistan 2016" (Ashgabat).

It is planned to build facilities for production of linear low density polyethylene from natural gas, polypropylene, poly-

vinyl chloride and other chemical products in the Balkan region of Turkmenistan as well as ethanamine, ethylene glycol and liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) in the country's Dashoguz province, and also a plant for production of synthetic liquid fuel (GIL) from natural gas near Ashgabat.

The plans for the nearest future related to the gas and chemical industry in Turkmenistan include complex processing of ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Turkey Detains 568 for Alleged Kurdish Ties

ISTANBUL - The Latest on Turkey's investigation into a deadly weekend attack near a soccer stadium in Istanbul. (all times local): Turkey's interior ministry says 568 suspects have been taken into custody over alleged links to a Kurdish movement labelled as a terrorist organization in the country. The ministry issued a statement Tuesday saying that two days of operations looking into who could be behind a weekend attack spanned 28 cities. The arrests come in the wake of twin bombings Saturday night near a soccer stadium in Istanbul that killed 44 people, mostly police, and wounded scores of others.

It was not clear if the number of detentions announced Tuesday included the 235 people that Turkey rounded up on Monday. Turkey's police on ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Libya Says Military Operation Against IS over in Sirte

TRIPOLI - Spokesman of the Libyan UN-backed government of national accord said Tuesday that the military operation against the Islamic State (IS) in Sirte is officially over. Ashraf Al-Thulthi said that Sirte is not safe yet for people to return, due to mines and bombs that are still scattered in the city. The government forces in Sirte announced last week they finally defeated the terrorist group after almost seven month of fierce fighting that killed and injured hundreds of the government troops and forced civilians to flee to nearby cities. Mokhtar Al-Ma'madani, the new mayor said that he has plans for reconstruction of Sirte with the government, pointing that municipality intends to help the displaced residents of Sirte to return home with the help of the



ministry of local governance and the government forces. Sirte, the hometown of former leader Muammar Gaddafi, who was toppled in the 2011 uprising, has been dominated by the IS for over a year before the UN-backed unity government launched a military campaign against the terrorist group in May. *(Xinhua)*