

Moon Calls for Safe, Orderly Migration on Int'l Day

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Saturday called on the international community to act on global compact to ensure safe, regular and orderly migration.

In his message on the International Migrants Day which falls on Sunday, Ban said this has been a turbulent year for refugees and migrants due to continued devastating effect of armed conflict on civilians.

He noted thousands of people have lost their lives in transit in the Mediterranean and



elsewhere; in addition, migrants and refugees are being alienated and blamed for ills of society. Therefore, Ban called on governments to build on their commitments to govern large movements of refugees and migrants in a way that is people centered and rooted in fundamental human rights.

The total number of international migrants has increased from an estimated 175 million in 2000 to 244 million persons in 2015. One of every ten migrants is under the ... (More on P4)... (21)

Soldier Transporting Bus Hit by Explosion in Central Turkey

ANKARA - A bus transporting soldiers was hit by an explosion near Erciyes University in the central Turkish city of Kayseri early on Saturday, wounding an unknown number of people, security sources said, Hurriyet News reported. Ambulances were sent to the area after the explosion, the sources said. Turkey's Dogan news agency said the blast hit the bus as it drove past a car believed to be packed with explosives. Local hospital sources confirmed some dead after ex-

plosion. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim has reportedly cancelled his visit schedule and is holding a security meeting. Meanwhile, Turkey's media watchdog, the Radio and Television Supreme Council, announced a gag order on reporting the explosion. The blast came a week after a twin bombing outside an Istanbul soccer stadium killed more than 40 people and wounded more than 100, an attack claimed by Kurdish militants. (Xinhua)

Kerry Discusses Yemen War on Saudi Trip

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met Saudi King Salman and others Sunday to discuss the war in Yemen, a visit to the kingdom that likely will be his last as America's top diplomat. Kerry's trip, ahead of the inauguration of Republican President-elect Donald Trump, comes as diplomatic ties between the two longtime allies have been strained by the Iran nuclear deal championed by Democratic President Barack Obama and other issues.

Meanwhile, America has grown increasingly worried about civilian casualties caused by Saudi-led airstrikes in Yemen to the point of cutting some arms sales to the kingdom last week. The war in Yemen has also allowed extremist groups to flourish there, as the local affiliate of the Islamic State group claimed a suicide bombing Sunday in the southern port city of Aden that killed at least 48



soldiers lined up to receive their pay.

Any tensions weren't immediately visible as Kerry held meetings with the king, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Nayef and other royalty in Riyadh, the Saudi capital. He later ... (More on P4)... (22)

24,000 People Displaced in C. Philippines Due to Flash Flood

MANILA - Nearly 24,000 people were displaced in central Philippine province of Eastern Samar due to flash flood brought by torrential rains, the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) said Sunday. In a statement, the department said that as of Saturday evening, 6,650 families or 29,166 persons from 33 villages were affected by the weather disturbance. Of the total affected population, 5,580 families or 23,816 individuals were

displaced and served in 14 evacuation centers. The department noted that on Friday, Eastern Visayas experienced moderate to torrential rains due to the effect of the tail-end of a cold front. "This weather condition caused flooding in some municipalities in Eastern Samar, particularly in the municipalities of Jipapad, Maslog, Canavid, Taft, Arteche," the DSWD Field Office Region VIII said. The DSWD said ... (More on P4)... (23)

UN Chief Urges Parties to Solve Libya's Ongoing Crisis

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday urged the parties in Libya to join efforts to find a consensual solution to the country's ongoing crisis. On Dec. 17, 2015, the Libyan Political Agreement was signed in Skhirat, Morocco. Saturday marks one year since the signing of the UN-brokered deal. Ban said he cautions that the slow pace of implementation of the agreement has not brought the stability to the country, and therefore he urged

those that are not currently engaged in the process to join the efforts, according to a statement released by his spokesperson. "The Secretary-General reiterates that the United Nations will continue to accompany the process and support the Libyan people," said the statement. Over the past year,

under the agreement, the Presidency Council was formed and operates from Tripoli. However, Libya remains divided politically. And terrorism remains a major threat to the country. (Xinhua)



Busses Enter Syria's Aleppo to Resume Evacuation



ALEPPO, Syria - A total of 75 busses entered eastern Aleppo city in northern Syria on Sunday to evacuate the remaining rebels, a day after the suspended evacuation was resumed, a military source said.

The busses entered the neighborhoods of Zibdiyeh, Salahuddin, Mashhad and Ansari in southeastern Aleppo to evacuate the remaining rebels and their families through the Ramouseh road toward rebel-held areas in the southwestern countryside of Aleppo, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Meanwhile, busses entered the Shiite towns of Kafraya and Foa in the countryside of the northwestern province of Idlib on Saturday evening to evacuate as many as 1,200 Shiites besieged by the rebels.

The Shiite people are set to leave Idlib simultaneously with the rebel evacuation from Aleppo on Sunday, as part of a Russian-Turkish deal. The evacuation of rebels and their families from the last remaining strongholds in eastern Aleppo started on Thursday, and over 8,000 have already left toward the western countryside of Aleppo. The evacuation came after the Syrian army succeeded to retake 99 percent of the rebel-held areas in Aleppo, following a major offensive. (Xinhua)

Brexit Farage Says He Wants to be a Bridge between UK and Trump

LONDON - Leading Brexit campaigner Nigel Farage said on Sunday he wanted to be a bridge between the British government and the new U.S. administration. Last month U.S. President-elect Donald Trump said Farage - the former leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (UKIP) - would be great as Britain's envoy to Washington, but the British government dismissed the suggestion. "I can help to be a bridge between the government



in this country, the new trade department in this country, and not just Donald Trump but his team, his administration, and I would like to do that," Farage told BBC Radio. "If you wanted to get business from the biggest company in the world and there was someone there that ... (More on P4)... (24)

IS Claims Suicide Attack in Yemen's Aden, 49 Killed

A DEN, Yemen - The Islamic State (IS) group on Sunday claimed responsibility for a suicide attack that struck a gathering of pro-government forces in Yemen's temporary capital of Aden, leaving about 49 soldiers killed.

An online statement by the IS revealed in twitter said that "more than 70 apostates were killed in the jihadist attack launched by our martyr against soldiers in Aden." The suicide bomber who carried out the terrorist operation was identified as Abu Hashim Radfani, according to the statement.

One of the group's suicide bombers detonated his explosive belt at a crowd

of pro-government forces who gathered to receive their salaries near the house of Brigadier Nasser Anboursi in Aden's neighborhood of KhorMaksar.

Earlier, a military source anonymously told Xinhua that an attacker dressed as a soldier sneaked into a gathering of pro-government troops and then blew him up causing a huge blast that left 49 and injured 39 others.

Yemeni security forces sealed off the area and blocked the roads leading to the scene, while ambulances and police vehicles evacuated the killed and wounded people to the city hospitals, the Yemeni sources said. (Xinhua)

North Korea's Nuclear Arsenal More Dangerous than Previously Thought



PYONGYANG - North Korea has long-range nuclear warheads which can reach Britain, continental Europe and the United States, a South Korean government official reportedly said Saturday. The statement came amid reports that the military of the Kim Jong Un-ruled country is now capable of attaching nuclear warheads to missiles which can travel a few thousand miles.

Lee Sang-haw, director general of North Korean nuclear affairs bureau in South Korea, told the Daily Star Online in Seoul that Kim's nuclear arsenal is more dangerous than previously thought, and that "Europe is also within range" along with other countries of the NATO alliance. According to reports, North Korea's KN-08 missile - which is under development - will have a range of more than 7,500 miles.

"I am not able to share everything I know because much of the intelligence is classified and I don't want to go into precise details," a senior South Korean ministry source reportedly said. "There are different assessments of North Korea's ballistic missile capabilities, but what is for sure is as they repeat tests, they learn something important." (AP)

Neighbor News

China to Hand over Underwater Drone to U.S. in Appropriate Manner

BEIJING - Chinese Defense Ministry spokesperson Yang Yujun said late Saturday that China has decided to hand over the U.S. underwater drone it captured in its waters to the United States in an appropriate manner.

According to Yang's statement on the website of the defense ministry, on the afternoon of December 15, a Chinese naval lifeboat located an unidentified device in the waters of the South China Sea. In order to prevent the device from causing harm to the safety of navigation and personnel of passing vessels, the Chinese naval lifeboat verified and examined the device in a professional and responsible manner.

Upon examination, Yang said, the device was identified as an underwater drone of the United States. The Chinese side has de-

decided to hand over it to the U.S. in an appropriate manner. Both sides have been maintaining communication on the issue, Yang noted. The U.S. side's unilateral move to dramatize the issue in the process is inappropriate, and not conducive to its settlement. "We regret that," Yang added.

It is worth emphasizing that for a long time, the U.S. military has frequently dispatched vessels and aircraft to carry out close-in reconnaissance and military surveys within Chinese waters, Yang said. "China resolutely opposes these activities, and demands that the U.S. side should stop such activities. China will continue to be vigilant against the relevant activities on the U.S. side, and will take necessary measures in response," said the spokesperson. (Xinhua)

Putin Envoy Meets Iran Officials for Syria Talks



TEHRAN - Russian President Vladimir Putin's special envoy to Syria made a previously unannounced visit to Iran on Sunday for talks with top officials on the Syrian conflict.

"The liberation of Aleppo (north of Damascus) was the result of the initiative by Iran, Russia and Syria and the resist-

ance front" of Lebanon's Shiite group Hezbollah, said Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, in his meeting with the envoy, Alexander Lavrentiev.

He called for increased cooperation between the Syrian regime and its allies, Iran and Russia. ... (More on P4)... (25)

Gen. Bajwa in Saudi Arabia on three-Day Visit



ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Chief of the Army Staff, Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa, on Saturday reached Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, on a three-day official visit.

According to the Inter-Services Public Relations, Gen Bajwa was

warmly received by Assistant Defence Minister Muhammad bin Abdullah al-Ayesh. During his visit, the army chief would meet senior civil and military leadership of Saudi Arabia. (Monitrong Desk)

Regional Energy Security Issues Discussed in Ashgabat

ASHGABAT - The regional expert conference titled "25 years of Independence: Energy Security issues in Central Asia and Beyond" was held in Ashgabat, the Turkmen foreign ministry said. The conference was organized by the Turkmen foreign ministry with the support of the Office of the NATO Liaison Officer in Central Asia, the embassy of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland in Ashgabat, and the Royal United Services Institute for Defence and Security Studies, RUSI (UK), the ministry said. Ac-

cording to the ministry, the experts from international and national think tank institutions from Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan attended the conference. During the plenary sessions of the conference the participants discussed issues related to energy security, the creation of a platform for the timely exchange of views and experience on issues of common security and stability challenges in Central Asia, Afghanistan, India and Pakistan, the ministry said. (Trend)