

# Over 56 Million People Worldwide Trapped in Vicious Cycle of Violence, Hunger: UN

UNITED NATIONS - Two UN agencies on Friday told the UN Security Council that ongoing conflicts around the world have pushed more than 56 million people into "crisis" or "emergency" levels of food insecurity and are hindering efforts to eradicate malnutrition.

According to a series of 17 country briefs prepared for the 15-nation UN council by the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), Yemen and Syria top the list in terms of sheer numbers of people



whose food security is being negatively impacted by ongoing conflict. "Conflict is a leading cause of hunger -- each famine in the modern era has been characterized by conflict," FAO Director-General Jose Graziano da Silva and WFP Executive Director Ertharin Cousin said Friday in a joint news release.

"(It) undermines food security in multiple ways: destroying crops, livestock and agricultural infrastructure, disrupting markets, causing displacement, creating fear ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Brexit Drags Down U.S. Consumer Sentiment in July

WASHINGTON - U.S. consumer sentiment fell in July as Brexit weighed down upper income households' expectation for economic growth. The final reading of the consumer sentiment for July fell to 90 from 93.5 in June, said the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan index of consumer sentiment on Friday.

"The Sentiment Index was still below last month's level mainly due to increased con-



cerns about economic prospect among upper income households," said survey director Richard Curtin. Nearly a quarter of

households with incomes in the top third said Brexit affect their confidence for the economy, while only 11 percent of the households

with incomes in the bottom two-thirds shared the same concerns, said the survey. The concerns about Brexit are likely to quickly recede as stock prices have rebounded and the direct impact on U.S. trade is tiny, said Curtin. But "uncertainties surrounding global economic prospects and the presidential election will keep consumers more cautious in their expectations for future economic growth," said Curtin. (Xinhua)

## US Democratic Party Congressional Group Confirms Breach of Computers

WASHINGTON - A congressional group under the U.S. Democratic Party confirmed Friday that its computers have been hacked in a way similar to the recent cyber attack on the Democratic National Committee (DNC). The breach of the computers of the group, Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC), reportedly started last month, according to media reports.

"The DCCC can confirm that we have been the target of a cyber security

incident," DCCC spokeswoman Meredith Kelly said in a statement. Upon discovering the intrusion, the DCCC immediately took action and engaged with the cyber security company Crowd Strike to assist it in addressing this incident, she said.

"The investigation is ongoing," Kelly said. "Based on the information we have to date, we've been advised by investigators that this is similar to other recent ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Putin, Pahor Stress Russian Chapel Symbol of Peace

LJUBLJANA - Russian President Vladimir Putin and Slovenian President Borut Pahor highlighted the Russian Chapel as a symbol of peace as they addressed a one-hour ceremony on Saturday marking the centenary of the memorial to Russian WWI prisoner-of-wars who perished in Slovenia, Slovenian Press Agency reported.

Pahor stressed that the ceremony gathered those who cared about peace, stressing that "we care whether there will be war or peace" and calling for overcoming hurdles in ef-

orts to achieve "lasting peace" through dialogue. "We believe war and peace are always subject to political decision. We reject the notion that war is inevitable. We accept responsibility for peaceful resolution of all disputes. We want lasting peace," he said.

Putin said that the Russian Chapel was "a symbol of Russian-Slovenian friendship, the common striving for peace and prosperity." He also thanked "generations of Slovenians" who took care of the ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Rebels Start Surrendering to Syrian Army in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - An unidentified group of rebels started surrendering to the Syrian army in Aleppo Saturday, just days after the army and President Bashar al-Assad promised pardon for the surrendering rebels, according to state news agency SANA.

An undisclosed number of rebels in the rebel-held eastern part of Aleppo surrendered themselves and their weapons to the Syrian army, said the report. The move came just a couple of days after the Syrian army started storm-



ing rebel-held districts in the eastern part of Aleppo, following a military campaign resulting in a full siege on rebel-held areas.

On Thursday, President al-Assad offered amnesty to all rebels who would surrender themselves within 30 days.

Also Thursday, Syrian authorities announced the opening of three safe exits for civilians to leave rebel-held... (More on P4)...(25)

## Turkey Army Kills 35 in Foiling PKK Attack At Military Base

ANKARA - Thirty-five Kurdish militants were killed by Turkey's security forces early on Saturday in the southeastern Hakkari province, local DHA news agency reported. Airstrikes were launched against the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) members who were attempting to infiltrate into Beybuta Hill Military Base Region in Yuksekova district.

The airstrikes killed 23, while four others were killed in ground operations. Meanwhile, eight other militants were killed in operations launched by Turkey's army forces in Cukurca district.

On Friday, eight soldiers were killed and dozen others injured after PKK terrorists opened fire on ... (More on P4)...(26)

## UN Security Council Extends Mandate of UN Mission in South Sudan

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Friday extended the mandate of the UN peacekeeping mission in South Sudan, known as UNMISS, until Aug. 12, 2016. The mandate of UNMISS is going to expire on July 31. The 15-nation council agreed on a short period of extension because it is considering to revise the mandate of UNMISS due to a renewed fighting in South Sudan.

In a unanimously adopted resolution, the council members also authorized UNMISS to "use all necessary means" to carry out its tasks. Earlier this month, clashes between government and opposition forces took place in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, leaving 272 people, including 33 civilians, killed. The UNMISS ... (More on P4)...(29)

## 77 Million Newborns Globally Not Breastfed within First Hour of Life: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS - Some 77 million newborns -- or one in two -- are not put to the breast within an hour of birth, depriving them of the essential nutrients, antibodies and skin-to-skin contact with their mother that protect them from disease and death, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) said on Friday.

"Making babies wait too long for the first critical contact with their mother outside the womb decreases the newborn's chances of survival, limits



milk supply and reduces the chances of exclusive breastfeeding," said France Begin, the UNICEF senior nutrition adviser. "If all babies are fed nothing but breastmilk from the moment they are born until they are six months old, over 800,000 lives would be saved every year." ... (More on P4)...(27)

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## S. Sudan Sets New Rules on Entry of UN Personnel, Diplomats

JUBA - South Sudan's government on Friday cancelled issuing visas on arrival to UN personnel and members of diplomatic missions entering the country, saying passenger names must be submitted for verification three days before date of travel.

Acting spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thomas Kenneth Elisapana, said the new procedures required diplomatic missions to seek approval from the Foreign Ministry before their personnel were

allowed to enter South Sudan. "All entries into South Sudan must be communicated to the Foreign Ministry at least 72 hours before arrival. The Directorate of Immigration will no longer issue visas on arrival, it must be through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," Elisapana told Xinhua.

He denied claims that the government was trying to restrict movement of UN personnel in South Sudan, claiming the move aimed to ... (More on P4)...(30)

## US Says "High Likelihood" of Zika Spreading Locally

WASHINGTON - Health officials in Florida said Friday there is a "high likelihood" that the state has the first cases of local Zika virus transmission by mosquitoes in the continental United States.

The Florida Department of Health (DOH) said in a statement that it has gathered "enough information" in its investigation into the four possible non-travel related Zika cases in Miami-Dade and Broward

counties to "conclude that a high likelihood exists that four cases are the result of local transmission." "At this time, the department believes that active transmissions of the Zika virus are occurring in one small area in Miami-Dade county, just north of downtown," it said. Florida Governor Rick Scott identified one of the four patients as a woman while the other three... (More on P4)...(31)

## Nieghbor News

### KP Govt to Launch Retirement Benefit Scheme

PESHAWAR - The Pakistani Khyber Pakhtunkhwa (KP) government is likely to launch the Retirement Benefit and Death Compensation Scheme for its employees soon. The scheme will replace current system, wherein government employees were insured with the State Life Insurance Corporation of Pakistan (SLICP).

An official in the know told Dawn that currently, the government was in agreement with the SLICP for the insurance of its employees, wherein a certain amount was deducted from their salary and the finance depart-

ment contributed that to the group insurance. Official says scheme to ensure payment to all govt. employees without age restriction He said the SLICP paid compensation only in case of death or permanent disability up to 65 years. The official said sometimes ago, the finance department had conducted a study, which suggested that by nominally increasing the insurance deduction and investing that money on its own, the government could give the same benefit to all government employees without any restriction. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Resolved to Open New Chapter in ASEAN Cooperation: Deputy FM

TEHRAN - Iran is determined to open a new chapter in its cooperation with the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Asia and Pacific Affairs Ebrahim Rahimpour says.

In a meeting with Indonesian Foreign Minister Retno Marsudi in Jakarta on Friday, Rahimpour thanked Indonesia as an ASEAN member for its support for Iran's accession to the Treaty of Amity and Cooperation (TAC). During their 49th meeting in the Laos capital of Vientiane on July 24, ASEAN foreign ministers agreed to Iran's request for joining the bloc's TAC. ASEAN is

a regional organization comprising 10 Southeast Asian states which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic integration amongst its members. Since its formation on August 8, 1967 by Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, and Thailand, ASEAN's membership has expanded to include Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar and Vietnam. Its principal aims include accelerating economic growth, social progress, and socio-cultural evolution among its members, alongside the protection of regional stability and the provision of a mechanism for member states to resolve differences peacefully. (Presstv)

### Turkmenistan Speeds up TAPI Pipeline's Construction



ASHGABAT - Construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline is being carried out at an accelerated pace, said a message from "Turkmenistan: The Golden Age" state agency.

The construction of the strategic pipeline in the Turkmen section is being conducted by the country's fuel and energy complex.

Pipelining of the 70-meter corridor is being conducted according to the design and estimate documentation on the route of the future pipeline.

Currently, its length is more than 23,000 meters. "More than 7,500 running meters of large diameter pipes were put and welded in this corridor," said the message. "Over forty units of special equipment and construction machinery are being used in preparatory work." The message also said that the engineering and construction management experts of Turkmen State Concern have finished engineering and exploration work on the two-kilometer track of the future main gas pipeline. (Trend)

### OIC Secretary General Meets Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan

JEDDAH - The OIC Secretary General Iyad Ameen Madani has received at the OIC General Secretariat Abdulaziz Kamilov, Foreign Minister of Uzbekistan.

They discussed the ongoing preparations for the 43rd session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers, which Uzbekistan is hosting in October.

The Foreign Minister had opened the senior officials meeting preparatory on Tuesday, 26th

July, which concluded its proceedings yesterday with the approval of the resolutions that will be considered for adoption by the foreign ministers.

The Secretary General also received the Deputy Foreign Minister of Kazakhstan, Ambassador Akyllbek Kamalidinov with whom he discussed preparations for the OIC Science and Technology Summit which will be hosted by Kazakhstan. (Agencies)