

# UN Chief Shocked at Grave Violence against Children in Conflict Countries

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday expressed shock at the scale of grave violations against children in such countries as Afghanistan, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen. In his annual report on children and armed conflict covering the year 2015, the secretary-general noted the complex environments created by aerial operations by the armed forces of some member states and inter-

national coalitions, which killed and maimed many children.

In some cases, state-allied armed groups have recruited and used children and committed other violations, Ban said.

"Member states should consider, as a matter of priority, changes in policies, military procedures and legislation, where necessary, to prevent violations and protect children," he said, stressing that those who engage in military action resulting



in numerous violations of children's rights will find

themselves under the UN scrutiny. The situation in

Yemen was particularly worrisome with a five-

fold increase ... (More on P4)...(23)

## UN Police Becomes Central Pillar of Peace Operations: UN Official

UNITED NATIONS - UN police has become a central pillar of UN peace operations, said UN Deputy Secretary-General Jan Eliasson here on Friday. Addressing the first-ever United Nations Chiefs of Police Summit, Eliasson said UN police are central to protecting human rights and preventing situations from deteriorating in the setting of UN missions. From



Kabul to Kinshasa... from Port-au-Prince to Pristina, United Nations Police work in some of the most

challenging situations on earth, said UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon in a video message to the

summit. UN Statistics show that the UN Police force had grown ... (More on P4)...(24)

## China Urges Japan not to Intervene in, Hype up South China Sea Issue

SINGAPORE - China on Saturday urged Japan to respect China's major interests and concerns, and not to intervene in or hype up the South China Sea issue.

The call came as Chinese Admiral Sun Jianguo met with Japan's Vice Minister of Defense for International Affairs Toru Mimura here on the sidelines of the 15th Shangri-La Dialogue.

Sun, deputy chief of the

Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, reaffirmed China's stance on the South China Sea, asking Japan to be prudent and take tangible actions to keep the improving momentum of the bilateral ties. China attaches importance to the ties with Japan and would like to promote mutual understanding through dialogue ... (More on P4)...(25)

## UNHCR Hails Announcement of Refugee Team to Compete at Olympic Games

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations refugee agency on Friday warmly welcomed the announcement by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) of the refugees who will compete as a team in the upcoming 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

The team includes two Syrian swimmers, two judokas from the Democratic Republic of Congo, and six runners from Ethiopia and South Sudan, the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said in a press release.

All of the members of the team have fled violence and persecution



in their countries and sought refuge in places as wide-ranging as Belgium, Germany, Luxembourg, Kenya and Brazil, said the press release. The first-ever refugee team will enter the opening ceremony in the Maracana Stadium before the host Brazil and under the

Olympic flag. Throughout the Games, they will be treated as any other team, but will have expenses paid by the IOC.

The 2016 Summer Olympics is a major international multi-sport event in the tradition of the Olympic Games due to take ... (More on P4)...(26)

## Over 40 Killed in Continuous Rebels Shelling in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - Over 40 people were killed Saturday by continuous rebel shelling against a Kurdish-dominated district in the northern city of Aleppo, Syria's national TV said, citing a Russian monitoring base.

The shelling of the rebels, mainly the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front, targeted the district of Sheikh Maksud, a predominantly-Kurdish district in Aleppo, which is controlled by the Kurdish People's Protection Units, otherwise known as YPG.

The incessant shelling also wounded 100 people, an escalation deemed as a breach to a recently-established and shaky truce, according to the report.



Meanwhile, the TV said 11 other people were killed, including a child, by similar shelling on government-controlled areas in Aleppo city, namely the Masharqa, Midan and al-Faid. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the Saturday's shelling was

intense. The U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces rebels are still trying to advance toward the city of Manbij, which is controlled by the Islamic State group, in the northern countryside of Aleppo, near Turkey. The ... (More on P4)...(27)

## Rousseff Meets with Thousands of Supporters in Political Rally

RIO DE JANEIRO - Suspended Brazilian President Dilma Rousseff on Friday participated in a political rally and addressed her supporters in Porto Alegre in her home state of Rio Grande do Sul. The rally gathered some 10,000 people who oppose Rousseff's impeachment, which has led to the ascension of Vice President Michel Temer to the top office. Rousseff spoke against the impeachment process, calling it a coup, an opinion shared by a significant number of Brazilians.

"After a long period of dictatorship, in which people could not express themselves, they want to destroy and violate our democracy. I was elected with the votes of 52 million Brazilians," she stressed. "They want to stop me from talking on the streets, they do not want me to go around this country and denounce the coup," said Rousseff, referring to the edict issued earlier in the day by Temer, which limited her official trips to only between Brasilia and Rio Grande do Sul, where her home is.

As suspended president, Rousseff was forbidden from using president's official planes but retained her right to a government plane.

An impeachment, under Brazilian law, requires a conviction of crime of responsibility, but the allegedly illegal budget decrees leading to her suspension were never a crime, she reiterated on Friday to the rally. On Thursday evening, a similar protest ... (More on P4)...(30)

## Iraqi Forces Score Breakthrough into IS Stronghold

FALLUJAH - Iraqi security forces on Saturday pushed into the besieged city of Fallujah and seized part of a district in southern the city after fierce clashes with Islamic State (IS) militants, a security source told Xinhua.

The troops have made a significant breakthrough in the day when they pushed into the al-Nuaimia district after defeating the IS defensive line in southern Fallujah, some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The latest advance put the troops in new positions



at the edges of adjacent districts of Shuhadaa and Jubail in southern Fallujah, the source said.

"The troops still have more than three kilometers of urban areas to reach the government compound in the central part of Fallujah," the source added.

Meanwhile, the source said that U.S.-led coalition aircraft bombarded IS positions in Shuhadaa district and killed at least nine IS militants. The alliance's warplanes also bombarded IS militants in Azragiyah area in ... (More on P4)...(28)

## 32 Soldiers Killed in Boko Haram Attack in Niger

NIAMEY - At least thirty soldiers from Niger and two others from Nigeria were killed on Friday night in an attack in Bosso, Diffa region in southeastern Niger, close to the border with Nigeria, according to an official statement on Saturday.

According to the statement of Niger defence ministry, hundreds of Boko Haram militants attacked the town of Bosso during the night. Overwhelmed by the firepower, the Nigerian soldiers were forced to retreat.

During the fight, seven other soldiers were injured, the statement added. The counter-offensive conducted by the Nigerian forces early Saturday morning has retaken all the positions in Bosso, "The situation is under control and calm has returned in this locality," the ministry said. ... (More on P4)...(31)

## Turkey Declares Curfew in South-Eastern Province over Security Concerns

ANKARA - A curfew has been declared in south-eastern Turkish province of Diyarbakir for security concerns, the Diyarbakir Governor's office said on Saturday. The move came after the anti-terror operations of Turkish security forces against Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militants, the statement said.

The curfew, which included nine neighborhoods of Lice town, started at 10:00 am local time (GMT 0700) on Saturday, according to the statement.



More than 450 members of Turkish security forces and thousands of PKK members have been killed in confrontations inside Turkey and in northern Iraq since last July. More than 40,000 people

were killed in clashes with the PKK since 1984, when the group started its first offensive. The PKK is listed as terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union and Turkey. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Chinese Admiral Expects NATO to be Active Contributor to Regional, World Stability

SINGAPORE - A senior Chinese military official said on Saturday that China would like to see NATO play as an active contributor to regional and world peace and stability. When meeting with Chairman of the NATO Military Committee Petr Pavel, Admiral Sun Jianguo, deputy chief of the Joint Staff Department of China's Central Military Commission, said China and the Chinese military attach great importance to the relations with

NATO. The Chinese admiral made a four-point proposal on future military exchanges between China and NATO. He suggested maintaining policy dialogue, enhancing personnel exchanges, strengthening multilateral cooperation as well as stepping up cooperation in unconventional security areas, such as coordination in escorting mission against piracy and anti-terrorism in Afghanistan. Sun ... (More on P4)...(32)

### Leader Urges Iranians to Preserve Revolutionary Spirit

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has called on Iranians to preserve their "revolutionary spirit" with which they drove the enemies out of the country some 38 years ago. Ayatollah Khamenei addressed more than one million mourners in southern Tehran on Friday to mark the 27th anniversary of the passing away of Imam Khomeini who ended a pro-Western monarchy in Iran in 1979. "We have many small and big enemies, but

foremost among them are America and this very evil Britain," Ayatollah Khamenei said. The Leader touched on the history of US hostility with Iran, including its support for Saddam Hussein in the war on the Islamic Republic, US downing of an Iranian passenger plane, its attack on Iranian oil platforms and a CIA coup in Iran. "Any individual or current which is working for Islam, if they trust America, they will be slapped in the face," Ayatollah Khamenei said. ... (More on P4)...(33)

### Uzbekistan must be Important Target for Romanian Businessmen: CCIR

BISHKEK - "Uzbekistan must be an important target for Romanian businessmen, especially for SMEs, in a situation where I think we have to expand our sphere of economic collaboration also outside the European Union," said Vice Chairman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Romania (CCIR) Aurelian Gogulescu. Addressing a business seminar on June 1, Gogulescu said that Uzbekistan is a country with which Romania

had excellent cooperation in the past, but in recent years, commercial relations have stalled. "Our interest is to resume the economic cooperation between Romania and Uzbekistan, especially since Uzbekistan is currently one of the countries with the fastest economic growth, ranking 26th in the world according to the European bank EGBs. Uzbekistan is one of the most important countries in Central ... (More on P4)...(34)

### Pakistan Suffered Loss of \$188bn During War on Terror: Dar

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on Saturday said that Pakistan has lost at least US\$118 billion during the ongoing war on terror. Addressing a post-budget press conference, the minister maintained that despite constraints the "defence allocations have been increased".

Zarb-i-Azb is entering its final round and its successful conclusion would help attract direct foreign investment.

Shedding light upon the 'salient features' of the budget, the minister said that significant reduction in the prices of fertilisers, decreasing Rs400 per bag,

and the Rs300 reduction on DAP bags was aimed at benefiting the farmer and agricultural sector at large.

About his plan to boost the agricultural sector, Dar reminded audience that the government has withdrawn 7 per cent duty on pesticides while off-peak rates of electricity for agricultural tube wells has been lowered from Rs8.85 a unit to Rs5.35. Dar maintained that the government will spend Rs57 billion to provide relief to government employees through increase in their salaries and pension, out of which, Rs-12 billion will be spent.

### Export of Energy Resources to Europe is Turkmenistan's Priority

ASHGABAT - Export of energy resources to Europe is one of priorities of Turkmenistan's international strategy, said the Turkmen government's message. "Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project involving laying of a 300-km gas pipeline along the bottom of the Caspian Sea to the coast of Azerbaijan is optimal for the delivery of Turkmen energy resources to the European market. Then the Turkmen fuel can get to Turkey, which shares a border with the European countries. (AKIpress)

will continue." Talks regarding the delivery of Turkmen gas to Europe are underway since 2011. The Trans-Caspian Gas Pipeline Project involving laying of a 300-km gas pipeline along the bottom of the Caspian Sea to the coast of Azerbaijan is optimal for the delivery of Turkmen energy resources to the European market. Then the Turkmen fuel can get to Turkey, which shares a border with the European countries. (AKIpress)