

Nepal Expresses Sorrow over Killing of its Nationals in Kabul

KATHMANDU - Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli and Minister for Foreign Affairs Kamal Thapa expressed deep sorrow over the killing of 14 Nepalese nationals in Afghanistan on Monday. "I am saddened with the death of our Nepalese nationals in a suicide bomb attack in Afghanistan. I pay tribute to those who lost their lives in the incident," the prime minister said on Twitter. Minister for Foreign Affairs Thapa, on Twitter, said, "Shocked to hear the death of 14 Nepalese in a terrorist attack in Kabul today. Strongly condemn



this heinous crime against innocent people." A spokesman at the Nep-

alese Ministry for Foreign Affairs said the Nepalese Embassy in Islamabad,

which is concurrently accredited to Afghanistan, is in touch with the au-

thorities in Kabul following the incident. "We will release details

about the Nepalese killed in the incident. Our embassy in Pakistan is constantly in touch with the Kabul authorities," spokesman at the ministry, Bharat Raj Paudyal, told Xinhua.

Those Nepalese were killed after a suicide bomber struck a bus carrying security personnel in the Afghan capital of Kabul on Monday morning.

The Interior Ministry of Afghanistan stated in a press release that a suicide bomber targeted a minibus which was carrying employees working ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Nieghbor News

Over 20 Killed in S China Storms

CHANGSHA - Floods, landslides and mud flows have killed 22 and displaced 197,000 in southern China since heavy rain began Saturday, prompting emergency response to evacuate affected people and prevent further damages in crops and buildings. According to China's Ministry of Civil Affairs, by 9 a.m. Monday, a total of 20 people are still missing.

More than 2,400 homes and 20,900 hectares of crops were destroyed. Direct economic losses from the floods hit 2.7 billion yuan (about 410 million U.S. dollars), the ministry said.

In southwest China's Chongqing Municipality, five people have died since Saturday as rivers burst their banks in flash floods. The flood control and drought relief headquarters in Chongqing said 1,197 people had been displaced and 66 houses destroyed.

In neighboring Sichuan Province, four people died Sunday after heavy rain and the ensuing landslides caused their houses to collapse.

Yongning River, a tributary of the Yangtze, saw its biggest flood in 80 years, with the water rising 1.43 meters above the safety line.

In northwest China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region, floods and hail have killed two people and another person is missing. Around 13,000 were relocated.

Three people lost their lives in east China's Anhui Province, also as a result of collapsed houses. The search for a missing child in Susong County continues, according to the civil affairs department of the province. The county was hit by heavy rain from Saturday morning, ruining 26,900 hectares of crops, destroying 266 houses ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

India Says its 39 Nationals Abducted in Iraq are Alive

NEW DELHI - India's External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj has said 39 Indians abducted by the Islamic State (IS) group in Iraq are still alive. Swaraj dismissed reports about their killing at a press conference held in New Delhi on Sunday. "When I am saying that they were alive, I have a huge responsibility to find them. I have been searching for them over

the last two years," she said in response to a question.

"We got information about them being alive from two heads of state. It is my duty to search for them. And I will do so. So, it will be unjust on my part to say that the Indians held in Iraq are dead," she added.

The abductions were carried out in June 2014. A testimony by an Indian national, Harjit Masih, said all the 39



Indians had been killed. Masih, according to reports, had managed to flee from captivity of the IS. Swaraj also said her ministry was trying its

best to ensure safe release of Judith D'Souza, an aid worker and resident of Kolkata, who was abducted in Kabul this month. (Xinhua)

Al-Shabaab Militants Burn Trucks Carrying Food in Somalia

MOGADISHU - Islamist militant group Al-Shabaab on Monday burnt three trucks which were carrying food near Hudur town, the capital of Bakool region in southwestern Somalia, a local official has said.

Governor of Bakool region, Mohamed Abdi, told reporters that the Somali National Army had arrived in the area where the incident happened and launched a search for the militants.

"Al-Shabaab militants

burnt down three big trucks at a location 70 kilometers east of Hudur town in Bakool region, two of the trucks left from this town to Beledweyne town in Hiiraan region, they were empty; the other one came from Beledweyne town with food shipment to Hudur. "The militants removed all passengers and burnt the trucks but did not kill anyone," the governor said.

It is said the trucks be ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Iran Thwarts Bomb Attack In Tehran

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says authorities have apprehended several people suspected of planning bomb attacks in the capital Tehran.

Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani made the remarks during a Sunday speech in the capital.

Noting that the arrests were made over the last few days, Shamkhani added that the attacks were planned for the holy month of Ramadan. "Wherever it may occur in Iran, any suspicious move will be swiftly detected; this is thanks to the presence of the people and capable and experienced organiza-

tions," he said.

Meanwhile, Iran's Intelligence Ministry said in a statement Monday that security forces had recently foiled several bombing plots by Takfiri-Wahabi groups in Tehran and several other provinces.

The statement added that Iranian forces also arrested a number of terrorists and seized bombs and a large cache of explosives.

In May, Iran's Intelligence Minister Mahmoud Alavi announced that 20 terrorist groups that had planned to detonate bombs and cause insecurity across the country had been dismantled. (PressTV)

UN Warns Record High of over 65 Mln People Forced to Flee their Homes

GENEVA - With an unprecedented 65.3 million displaced people recorded globally last year, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) indicated Monday that one in every 113 people is now either an asylum seeker, an internally displaced person or a refugee.

"This is very bad news. This means that few people have been able to find solutions while a much bigger number of people have chosen exile," said the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, Filippo Grandi. Amid conflict, systemic

violence and human rights violations, UNHCR's new Global Trends report shows that forced displacement dynamics are showing no signs of improving. Factors threatening the lives of those forced to flee their homes are also multiplying, the high commissioner noted, a particularly worrying trend given that half of the world's refugees are children.

"At sea, a frightening number of refugees and migrants are dying each year. On land, people fleeing ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

JAKARTA - Death toll from floods and landslides in Central Java province of western Indonesia has risen to 47 with 15 others missing, a senior official of disaster agency said here on Monday. The search and rescue operation was challenged by an unstable condition of soils and a potential of rains to happen, spokesman of the National Disaster Management Agency, Sutopo Purwo Nugroho, said.

Under the condition, the communities are also warned to step up alert, he told Xinhua via phone.

The search and rescue operation would continue to be carried out in the next seven days, the official said.

Previously, the agency reported that the natural disaster had also left 14 people severely wounded and hundreds of houses badly damaged. The districts of Purworejo, Banjarnegara and Kebumen are the hard-



est-hit areas, and most of the casualties came from there, Sutopo said. Sixteen districts and cities have been affected by the disasters since Satur-

day after hours of heavy downpours, he said.

Indonesia is frequently hit by floods and landslides during heavy rains. (Xinhua)

Death Toll Rises to 47 in Indonesia's Floods, Landslides

U.S. Senate's Latest Push for Gun Control after Orlando Massacre Doomed to Failure

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate is slated to begin voting on gun control bills on the coming Monday in the wake of the Orlando nightclub massacre. However, the prospect of any bills getting passed looks bleak.

The four competing bills, two Democratic and two Republican proposals, focus on whether to expand background check and to block selling of firearms to anyone on federal government's terrorism watch list.

Democrats insist that the sales of firearms should be blocked if there is a "reasonable suspicion" that



someone is and will possibly be on the government's terrorism watch list.

In an even longer shot, Democrats are also seeking a background check for the sales and transfer of guns with a handful of

exception, a long-standing stance almost unanimously opposed by Republicans in both chambers.

Currently, purchasing firearms at gun shows and on the Internet does not ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Nigerian Gov't Forces Kill 15 Boko Haram Fighters in Air Strike

ABUJA - An air strike launched by Nigerian government forces has killed a total of 15 Boko Haram fighters who were planning a violent attack in the restive northeastern state of Borno, military authorities said on Monday.

The terrorists, who had assembled in Kangarawa

axis, located in the northern part of Borno State, were killed on Sunday in a strike launched by the air forces of government, said Ayodele Famuyiwa, spokesperson of the Nigerian Air Force.

Famuyiwa told Xinhua the casualties figure was confirmed by ground forces who subsequently

consolidated on the gains of the air effort to pursue and inflict further casualty on the fleeing members of the terrorist group.

"The latest victory against the Boko Haram terrorists brings to fore the important role of air-power in counter-in ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Six Dead, over 100 Injured in Clashes between Police, Teachers in Mexico

MEXICO CITY - Six people were killed and more than 100 others wounded on Sunday in a violent clash between police and teachers in the southern Mexican city of Oaxaca, authorities said.

The six deaths were civilians, while the injured included 55 federal and state officers, Oaxaca state public security official Jorge

Alberto Ruiz Martinez was quoted as saying by media reports.

Mexico's National Security Commission said Sunday that the police "were not armed and didn't even have batons," in their efforts to end the protesters' week-long blockade of a road in Oaxaca.

It added that the gunshots came from unknown gun-

men and demanded a local investigation.

A total of 21 people were arrested by 14:30 p.m. local time (21:30 GMT), local daily Milenio quoted Hector Gonzalez Hernandez, health minister of the Oaxaca state, as saying.

The protest in the state capital was among a renewed wave of protests the ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

IRGC Commander Leaves Iraq for Syria amid Escalating Conflicts

TEHRAN - The commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has left Iraq for Syria as the conflicts in Syria heat up, a local news agency reported on Monday.

"Maj. Gen. Qassem

Soleimani rushed to Syria to oversee Resistance operations as the fight with terrorists takes a violent turn in recent days," semi-official Mehr news agency reported.

Soleimani departed for Syria to join his fellow

warriors in the suburbs of Aleppo on Sunday, the report said.

During the recent liberation operation of the Islamic State (IS) -held city of Fallujah in Iraq, Soleimani was providing ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Four Killed, 35 Injured in Tanzania Bus Crash

ARUSHA - At least four people were killed and 35 injured when a bus carrying them overturned in Gairo near eastern Tanzania's town of Morogoro on Monday, police said.

Morogoro Regional Police Commander, Ulrich Matei said the accident occurred at Tabu Hotel area in Gairo District at around 11 am local time along Morogoro-Dodoma highway, one of the Tanzania's crash-prone roads. According to him, four people were killed on the spot, including two children. Meanwhile, another 35 were injured in the accident. The regional police chief cited overspeeding as one of the causes of the accident. Survivors were rushed to the nearby hospital for observation and treatments. (Xinhua)

Algerian Troops Kill 8 Armed Militants in Ambush

ALGIERS - Eight armed militants were killed on Sunday by Algerian counter-terrorism troops in Medea, 115 km southwest of Algiers, Algerian Defense Ministry said.

The source specified that the terrorists were killed during an ambush that is part of the ongoing wide scale operation launched earlier this month.

The number of terrorists killed since the beginning of this anti-terrorism operation has risen to 12, said the source.

The region of Medea is known by its dense forests providing refuge to terrorist groups. However, the continuous anti-terrorism operations being conducted by the Algerian ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Security Forces Kill 5 Militants in SW Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - At least five militants were killed in an armed clash with security forces in Pakistan's southwest Awaran district, local media reported on Monday.

The Dunya TV reported that the Pakistani troops launched a search operation, acting on an intelligence tip-off regarding presence of militants in Mashkay area of Awaran, a district in the southwest Balochistan

province.

The search operation triggered off an exchange of fire, initiated by the militants who were cornered by the troops.

Arms and ammunition were also seized from the militants' hideout.

Officials said the killed militants were members of a banned outfit and were hiding in the area to avoid the crackdown in the province by the security forces. (Xinhua)

Tajikistan's Rahmon Might Become President for Life, Analyst Says

BISHKEK - rahmon smiles On 22 May, the people of Tajikistan will vote in a popular referendum on constitutional amendments that could effectively make leader Emomali Rahmon president for life, BBC's Abdjalil Abdurasulov believes.

The bill removes the presidential term limit for "the leader of the nation", the title given to Rahmon. He is currently serving his fourth term - and has used previous constitutional changes to get around the two-term limit.

His current term, which is supposed to be the last one, will end in 2020. But if the suggested amendments are adopted, he will be able to serve as many terms as he wishes. And Rahmon normally

has no difficulty in getting re-elected, although according to international observers, most elections in Tajikistan haven't met democratic standards.

Emomali Rahmon has been in power since 1992, and has managed to increase his power by cracking down on political dissent and freedom of expression. He has substantial public support - and his rather serious face can be seen on posters across Tajikistan.

People sing his praises and dedicate poems to him. And huge crowds turn up to presidential rallies - although attendance is obligatory for state employees.

Rahmon's supporters are grateful the civil war of the 1990s is over - but ...*(More on P4)...(30)*