

WHO Calls for Immediate Safe Evacuation of the Sick, Wounded in Syria

GENEVA - The World Health Organization (WHO) Friday called on belligerents in Syria to allow for the immediate and safe evacuation of the sick and wounded from all areas affected by the conflict, including eastern Aleppo.

"The situation is heart rending and enraging," said WHO Director-General Margaret Chan. "With the relentless attacks on health workers and hospitals, the handful of doctors still alive cannot possibly cope. Hospital beds are too few, equipment has been destroyed, and essential medicines, including anaesthetics, are running out. Many patients needing emergency trauma



care are children."

More than 270,000 people are trapped in east Aleppo with dwindling supplies of food, water and fuel. Humanitarian organizations have not been allowed to deliver aid, including medical supplies from WHO since the besiegement of the city on July 7.

According to WHO, over 840 people have been injured, almost a third of them children within the past week, while the health facilities that would treat them are crumbling and understaffed. Fewer than 30 doctors remain in the east of the city, and only 6 partially-functional hospitals are in service. ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Neighbor News

Sadiq Forwards PTI's Reference Seeking PM's Disqualification to ECP

LAHORE - A reference seeking Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's disqualification has been sent to the Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP), National Assembly Speaker Ayaz Sadiq said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters in Lahore, Sadiq said: "I decided to send the reference to ECP to strengthen the parliament...the decision was taken after I went through the documents."

On Aug 15, the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) had filed a reference against the premier calling for his disqualification as a Member of the National Assembly.

The PTI's Deputy Parliamentary Leader in the National Assembly, Shah Mehmood Qureshi, Chief Whip Dr Shireen Mazari and senior leader and MNA Dr Arif Alvi handed over the reference to Speaker Sardar Ayaz Sadiq in his office. The reference was part of PTI's political efforts in the background of the Panama Papers leaks involving the prime minister, the party said in a statement. Citing Articles 62 and 63 of the Constitution, the PTI had said Nawaz fell under the criterion to be disqualified as a Member of the National Assembly. *(Monitoring Desk)*

Russia Accuses US of Sparing 'Jihadists' in Syria

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Friday accused the United States of protecting a jihadist group in Syria in its effort to overthrow the beleaguered regime of President Bashar al-Assad. In an interview aired on Friday on BBC World News, Lavrov said Washington had vowed to "take as a priority an obligation to separate the opposition" from the former Al Qaeda affiliate once known as Al-Nusra Front, but that it had not done so.

"We have more and more

reasons to believe that from the very beginning the plan was to spare Nusra and to keep it just in case for Plan B or stage two when it would be time to change the regime," Lavrov said.

Moscow has repeatedly accused the US of failing on its commitment to persuade rebel forces to separate



themselves from jihadist groups such as Al-Nusra, which changed its name to Fateh al-Sham Front in July after renouncing its ties to Al Qaeda. A short-lived truce brokered by Moscow ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Russian FM Expresses Indignation to Kerry over "Terror Attacks in Russia" Remarks

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has expressed "strong indignation" to his U.S. counterpart John Kerry over Washington's recent remarks about possible terrorist attacks in Russia. On Wednesday, U.S. State Department Spokesman John Kirby said at a briefing that "if the civil war in Syria continued, extremists could attack Russian interests, and perhaps even Russian cities." Suggesting "terrorist

attacks on Russian cities do not only surpass diplomatic ethics but also raise questions about the inflammatory role of Washington," the RIA Novosti news agency quoted Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov as saying on Friday.

Ryabkov said this message was transmitted by Lavrov to Kerry in a phone conversation on Thursday which he said ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Iran to Germany: We'll Never Forsake Palestinian Cause

TEHRAN - Iran says it will never drop support for the Palestinians, rejecting Germany's demand that Tehran should recognize Israel before Berlin normalized ties with the Islamic Republic.

German Economy Minister Sigmar Gabriel told Der Spiegel before his visit to Tehran on Sunday that Iran could have normal, friendly relations with Germany "only when it accepted Israel's right to exist." "Ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Germany are based on mutual respect and interests, and no precondition would be acceptable in this regard," Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Saturday.

"In addition, we... deem the involvement of any third element [in the development of ties] as disruptive to bilateral relations," he added. Qassemi said, "The Islamic Republic considers defending the rights of the people of Palestine to be a fixed plank of its foreign policy and will never and under no circumstances forsake the Palestinian cause." Gabriel had also told the German weekly that he would raise concerns about Iran's human rights record during the upcoming visit. Qassemi dismissed the German politician's position as "irrelevant," saying, "The Islamic Republic does not allow any country to interfere in its domestic affairs." *(Presstv)*

15 Turkey University Staff Detained in Latest Post-Coup Raids

ANKARA - Turkish authorities on Saturday detained 15 staff from one of the country's oldest universities on suspicion of links to U.S.-based preacher Fethullah Gulen. The raids were the latest against suspects allegedly linked to the failed July 15 coup.

Those detained were rounded up following arrest warrants for 23 staff at the Ege University based in the Aegean city of Izmir, the state-run Anadolu news agency said. They are suspected of

links to Gulen who Turkey says orchestrated the coup from his Pennsylvania compound with the aim of ousting President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Gulen denies the charges. Some are also accused of using a secret messaging system called Bylock which Turkey says was devised by the coup plotters to share secret messages.

Eight suspects remain at large. Some of those detained include professors, the Dogan news ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Movement Restrictions in Eastern Ukraine Increase Hardships: UNHCR

UNITED NATIONS - The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) expressed its concern that restrictions on the movement of people in eastern Ukraine have led to increased hardships and limited the access of thousands of people to healthcare and social payments, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday.

The UN agency called on authorities to ease the plight of 26, 000 people crossing the dividing line between government-controlled and non-government-controlled areas



in eastern Ukraine, UN spokesman Stephan said at a daily news briefing here.

"The agency said that

these people face exhausting procedures, including having to wait long hours in line to cross to see their relatives, purchase goods

and medicines or resolve documentation issues in order to get their pensions and benefits," he said. ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

UN Chief to Probe Deadly Attack on UN-Syrian Relief Aid in North Syria

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General will establish an internal UN Board of Inquiry to investigate the deadly Sept. 19 incident involving a UN-Syrian Arab Red Crescent (SARC) relief operation to Urum al-Kubra, a town in western Aleppo Governorate in north Syria, a UN spokesman said here Friday.

"The Board of Inquiry will ascertain the facts of the incident and report to the secretary-general upon the completion of its work," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said in a statement issued here. "The secretary-general will review the report and decide what further steps to take." "The secretary-general urges all parties concerned to cooperate ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

UN Mourns Death of Senior U.S. Diplomat, Outstanding UN Supporter Reed

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday said that he was "profoundly saddened" at the passing of Ambassador Joseph Verner Reed, who served in 1987 as the former UN under-secretary-general of the then UN Department of Political and General Assembly Affairs. Reed "was both my good friend and an outstanding supporter of the United Nations," Ban said in a statement read to the reporters here by his spokesman. Ambassador Reed's long and distinguished service to the United Nations encompassed four secretaries-general and many roles, complementing a career in the private sector and the foreign ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Coming Week Critical in Selection of New UN Chief: General Assembly President

UNITED NATIONS - The president of the UN General Assembly, Peter Thomson, said on Friday that "next week is the critical one" for selection of a candidate by members the UN Security Council to replace retiring Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

"Wednesday next week is the critical one," Thomson told reporters here, adding that on Monday the latest candidate to enter the race, Kirstalina Georgieva of Bulgaria, will be interviewed for two hours by members of the 193-member Gen-



eral Assembly. "We will follow exactly the same format that all the other candidates received, so there is no unfair advantage to anybody," he said at a press conference here after explaining he is "merely acting as a referee in the process."

All candidates -- originally there were 12 -- were each interviewed for two hours by members of the ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Hungarian PM Calls for High Turnout, "No" Vote, in Sunday's Referendum

BUDAPEST - With one day to go before a government-sponsored anti-migrant referendum in Hungary, Prime Minister Viktor Orban wrote a lengthy article appearing in Saturday's conservative daily Magyar Idok.

The referendum question is: "Do you want the European Union to be able to prescribe the mandatory settlement of non-Hungarian citizens in Hungary even without the consent of Parliament?" The government initiated the referendum

following a European Union super-majority decision to distribute the first 100,000 or so migrants among the EU members. Hungary was one of the few countries opposed.

Orban is vehemently opposed to allowing any migrants into Hungary. He called the referendum a "crucial" one. He warned that "left-wing liberals" had been "agitating" against "national interests," playing along with Brussels and doing the groundwork for allowing ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Cuba, U.S. Discuss New Cooperation Possibilities

HAVANA - Cuba is negotiating with the United States on six new cooperation agreements including law enforcement and responses to oil spills, while calling for the end of the latter's subversive activities, a Cuban diplomat said Friday.

The new deals cover areas such as law enforcement, seismic monitoring and exchange of meteorological information, Josefina Vidal, director for U.S. affairs at the Cuban Foreign Ministry, said via the social network Twitter. She added these commitments also include search and rescue operations at the sea, responses to oil spills and other marine issues.

There will be seven high-level visits in October and November between the two countries, said the official who led the delegation from Havana to the fourth meeting of the Bilateral Commission held Friday in Washington.

During the reunion of the Bilateral Commission, the Caribbean island reiterated its demand on the devolution of the territory occupied by the U.S. Guantanamo Naval Base and the lifting of the half-century embargo U.S.-posed on Cuba. The Cuban representation also called for the end of "subversive" programs sponsored by Washington, after the two countries resumed diplomatic relations in July last year. Since the beginning of the bilateral commission meetings in September 2015, Havana and Washington have reached a dozen agreements on health, drug-trafficking and the resumption of direct regular flights. *(Xinhua)*

Turkmenistan Names Envoys to Canada, Sweden

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has made personnel changes in the country's Foreign Ministry, the Turkmen government said in a message Oct. 1.

Under the changes, the country's ambassador to the US Meret Orazov was simultaneously appointed the Turkmen envoy to Canada.

Moreover, Turkmenistan's ambassador to the UK, Yazmyrat Seryaev will simultaneously serve as the country's

ambassador in Sweden. Energy and transportation are the priority directions in cooperation between Turkmenistan and Canada. In particular, the oil and gas company Buried Hill Energy is carrying out drilling at the Turkmen section of the Caspian Sea. Meanwhile, Canada's Thermo Design Engineering Ltd., which works at gas fields in the eastern Turkmenistan, is the country's long-standing partner. *(Trend)*

Uzbekistan, Tajikistan Keen to Intensify Co-Op

TASHKENT - Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon and Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov, who arrived in Dushanbe on a working visit, discussed the Tajik-Uzbek relations as well as ways of their further development, Tajik president's press service said in a message Sept. 30.

The parties noted with satisfaction the positive trends in the recent period of cooperation between the two countries, including the increased volume of trade turnover and intensification of the work of the intergovernmental commission on trade and economic cooperation. They also noted the im-

portance of maintaining permanent political consultations and dialogues at a high level, said the message.

Tajik president and Uzbek foreign minister also noted the need for activating the cultural and humanitarian component of cooperation between the two countries. During the discussion of topical regional and international problems, the sides emphasized the importance of regional security as the main condition for sociopolitical stability in the Central Asia. The parties also noted the improvement of economic and trade partnership as an issue of paramount importance. *(Trend)*