

# Climate Change Fans Global Security Crisis: Kerry

MILAN - US Secretary of State John Kerry warned Saturday that climate change was a threat to global security and has inflamed volatile situations from Europe's migration crisis to the Syrian conflict. "Climate change is perhaps the most significant threat to global food security today. Make no mistake: the implications here extend well beyond hunger," he said just weeks before a key world climate conference in Paris. "This isn't only about food security; it's about global security, period," he said during a speech at Milan's 2015 Expo. Kerry said it was "not a



coincidence that, immediately prior to the civil war in Syria, the country experienced the worst drought

on record", sparking the migration of some 1.5 million people "that intensified the political unrest

that was beginning to brew". "I'm not suggesting the crisis in Syria was caused by climate change,

obviously, it wasn't. It was caused by a brutal dictator who barrel bombed, starved, tortured, and

gassed his own people. "But the devastating drought clearly made a bad situation a whole lot worse," he said. He described climate change as "threat multiplier". "Even if it doesn't ignite conflict, it has the ability to fan the flames and to make situations much more complicated for political leaders to deal with." Kerry cited the mass migration to Europe as an example of a crisis provoked partly by climate change - which he warned will get significantly worse if large parts of the world become uninhabitable due to global warming.(AFP)

## Syrian Army, Backed By Iranian Fighters, Advance South of Aleppo: Monitor

BEIRUT - Syrian troops backed by Hezbollah and Iranian fighters made advances on Saturday in their offensive to retake territory around the northern city of Aleppo from insurgents and jihadist fighters, a monitoring group said. The campaign around Aleppo, which the army launched on Friday, is one of several assaults it has waged against rebel fighters since Russian jets began carrying out air strikes on Sept. 30 in support of President Bashar al-Assad. It has concentrated so far on clearing rebel areas south of Aleppo rather than the city itself, which is home to 2 million people and divided between government forces and rebels. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the army and its allies retook three villages amid fierce fighting in which at least 17 Islamist fighters and eight soldiers or allied forces were killed. Troops are also trying to advance to the east of Aleppo towards Kweires military airport, aiming to break a siege on the base by Islamic State and other insurgents, the UK-based Observatory said. Hezbollah's Al-Manar television said the army had ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Iraq Forces Push North in a Bid to Reshape Battlefield

BAGHDAD - Iraqi forces pressed Saturday their biggest offensive in months to resume their long-stalled northward advance and disrupt jihadist lines, security officers said. After recapturing parts of Baiji and the huge nearby refinery complex from the Islamic State group, security and allied paramilitary forces thrust further northward up the main highway leading to Mosul. They reached the town of Zawayah and vowed to push on to Sharqat, the northernmost town in Salaheddin province before the border with Nineveh province, of which Mosul is the capital. "Iraqi forces are besieging the villages of Msahaq and Zawayah," about 25 kilometres (16 miles) north of Baiji, a senior officer in Salaheddin operations command said. Reclaiming control of that stretch of road and the villages along it would contribute to isolating IS strongholds east of the Tigris, such as Hawijah, from the self-proclaimed caliphate's heartland on the other side of the river. "Retaking Zawayah would divide the battlefield; Daesh will be in an awkward position," retired general and security analyst Abdel Karim Khalaf said, using an Arabic acronym for IS. "Their transport towards Tikrit and Ramadi will be complicated, the secondary itineraries are long and difficult," he said. (AFP)

## Polio Death in Lao Renews Int'l Effort to Eradicate Polio Around World

VIENTIANE - The recent death of a polio-stricken 8-year-old Lao boy had refocused local and world attention to polio, an ailment which is now almost extinct in other parts of the world. The death has drawn the attention of policymakers from the 10-member Association of South-East Asian Nations (ASEAN) as they gather in the nation's capital Vientiane for a five-day Ministerial Meeting on Rural Development and Poverty Eradication. A personal tragedy for the boy's family and a deep concern for local and national Lao health authorities, the death also marks a setback in the global fight against the disease and the attainment of a "polio-free world." The incident ... (More on P4)...(19)

## US Military Chairman in Israel for Meetings, Amid Violence



JERUSALEM - The new chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is in Jerusalem for talks with senior Israeli leaders, as violence spikes around the country. This is U.S. Marine Gen. Joseph Dunford's first overseas trip since taking the job Oct. 1. He will meet with Lt. Gen.

Gadi Eizenkot, the command-in-chief of the Israel Defense Forces and others.

Navy Capt. Greg Hicks says the latest violence may come up in meetings, but Dunford's visit was long-planned and his goal is to meet his Israeli counterparts and reaffirm Ameri-

ca's commitment to Israel. He also will visit other countries in the region.

The violence has been fueled in part by Palestinian fears that Israel is trying to expand its presence at a major Muslim-run shrine in Jerusalem. Israel denies that claim.(AP)

## UN Fears "Catastrophic Consequence" in Fight Between Israelis, Palestinians

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations on Friday blamed increasing tensions at holy sites in Jerusalem for the recent upsurge in deadly violence and warned of a possible religious fight that could have "catastrophic consequence" on both Israelis and Palestinians. "I call on all sides to respect the sanctity of all holy sites and reject the extremist elements that are pursuing a political agenda seeking to transform the current situation from a national to a religious struggle," UN Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs Taye-Brook Zerihoun told an emergency session of the Security Council requested by Jordan. "If they



(extremists) are successful in their efforts it could have catastrophic consequence for Palestinians and Israelis alike." Zerihoun recited a long list of attacks by Israelis and Pales-

tinians on each other in recent days. As of (Thursday), a total of seven Israelis and 32 Palestinians ... were killed, some 124 Israelis - including ISF (Israeli ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Croatia Diverts Migrants to Slovenia after Hungary Border Closure

OPATOVAC - Migrants streaming across the Balkans reached Slovenia on Saturday, diverted overnight by the closure of Hungary's border with Croatia in the latest demonstration of Europe's disjointed response to the flow of people reaching its borders. Hungary's right-wing government declared its southern frontier with Croatia off limits to migrants, blocking entry with a metal fence and razor wire just as it did a month ago on its border with Serbia. Croatia began directing migrants west to Slovenia, which said some 300 had arrived and would be registered before continuing their journey to Austria and Germany, the preferred destination of the vast majority, many of them Syrians fleeing war. But their movement had slowed visibly, with dozens of buses lined up at Serbia's border with Croatia through the night and into Saturday as Croatian police controlled their entry, a Reuters reporter said. Slovenia suspended rail traffic with Croatia. Aid agencies are concerned about backlogs of migrants building in the Balkans, battered by autumn winds and rain as temperatures drop before winter. Hungary said it had reinstated border controls on its ... (More on P4)...(20)

## UN Stresses Need for Proper Reception Facilities in Greece

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on Friday said that up to seven people -- four of them children -- have been killed in a collision between a smuggling boat and a Greek Coast Guard vessel off the island of Lesbos, a UN spokesman told reporters here.

In a separate incident, UNHCR staff had to be evacuated from a crowded registration site after violence flared up Thursday as frustration among refugees and migrants boiled over, said Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, at a daily news briefing here. "These events took place amid the continuing arrival of thousands of refugees and migrants by sea from Turkey, which has in-



creased pressure on the government's already overstretched reception and registration facilities on the island," Haq said. He quoted the UNHCR source as saying that both incidents underscore once again the urgent need to rapidly establish proper reception facilities in Greece for receiving, assisting, registering and screening all new arrivals. The Greek Coast Guard patrol vessel and the

fishing boat, which was carrying 38 people, collided off the Lesbos Island's northwestern coastal town of Molyvos. Seven bodies were recovered, and 31 people were rescued. As many as 85 boats landed on the island of Lesbos Wednesday, mainly along its northern shore where the channel separating Greece from Turkey is only about 10 kilometers. At present there ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Nieghbor News

### Sharif Discusses US Trip Agenda with Top Aides

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif concluded on Friday his preparations for the Washington trip with yet another round of consultations with his top foreign policy and security aides. "We had comprehensive discussion on the US visit and efforts for reviving the Afghan reconciliation process,

besides reviewing the progress on the implementation of National Action Plan on counter-terrorism," one of the participants of the meeting said. The Prime Minister's Office, meanwhile, said in a statement that the meeting chaired by Mr Sharif reviewed "the internal security situation of the country".(Agencies)

### Iran FM wants 'Humanitarian' Solution for US Reporter

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister said Saturday there are serious charges against jailed Washington Post reporter Jason Rezaian but that he is seeking to resolve the case from a "humanitarian perspective." Mohammad Javad Zarif provided no further details during a security conference Saturday to discuss Syria as well as Iran's future role in the region following a landmark nuclear agreement reached with world powers in July. Rezaian, who has been jailed for over a year on charges of espionage, was recently convicted by a Revolutionary Court. Iranian officials have not provided details on the verdict or sentence. "The issue over this defendant is a judicial process but we are making

efforts to resolve it from a humanitarian perspective," Zarif said. Rezaian was detained with his wife, who is a journalist for The National newspaper in the United Arab Emirates, and two photojournalists on July 22, 2014. All were later released except Rezaian. Rezaian, the Post's Tehran bureau chief since 2012, grew up in Marin County, California, spent most of his life in the United States, and holds both American and Iranian citizenship. Iran does not recognize dual nationality for its citizens. Iran's state media, citing the indictment, have said Rezaian collected information on Iranian and foreign individuals and companies circumventing sanctions and passed them on to the U.S. (AP)

### China Upholds Peaceful Negotiation in Handling Disputes: Military Official

BEIJING - China always insists on resolving disputes through friendly negotiations with parties directly involved and will try its best to avoid unexpected conflicts, a senior Chinese military official said Saturday. China has always advocated handling disputes through peaceful means and will not use force recklessly, even when it comes to issues related to territory and sovereignty, said vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission Fan Changlong while addressing the sixth Xiangshan Forum. Fan said China has settled land and border issues with a majority of neighboring countries through consultation. "China will never seek hegemony, expansion, or dominance in any region." Peace, development and cooperation are still the main trends, and negotiation and dialogue are the consensus in the Asia-Pacific region,

though land and sea disputes exist between some countries, the general said, adding the disputes should not become obstacles to regional exchange and cooperation. "We need to effectively manage differences, earnestly implement the consensus on crisis management, make utmost efforts to avoid escalation of disputes, and create conditions for proper settlement of problems," Fan said. China will actively participate in multilateral security cooperation dialogues in the region, including the Xiangshan Forum and Shangri-La Dialogue, he said. The nation will also accelerate the formation of an 8,000-strong standby peace-keeping force. Fan reiterated that the construction on the Nansha Islands serves mostly civilian purposes, which not only improves marine navigation but provides public services.(Xinhua)

### Russia May Send Border Guards to Tajikistan to Fend Off ISIL: Defense Ministry

BISHKEK - Russia's deputy defense minister has told reporters that it's possible the Russian military would fight terrorism by putting regular units on the border between Afghanistan and Tajikistan, reports RT. "Our political leaders will discuss this problem and make a decision. Everything is possible," General Yuri Borisov said at a news conference in Kazakhstan's capital Astana. He was being asked if Russia could give military support to Tajikistan due to the growing terrorist threat in the region. The general did not exclude the Russian mili-

tary resuming the armed protection of the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border. Borisov's comment was made after the meeting between the leaders of Russia and Kazakhstan who, according to Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, "were very concerned with the situation in Tajikistan." Russia had a special unit of border guards at the Tajikistan-Afghanistan border between 1992 and 2005 and repeatedly repelled attacks by Taliban forces. Russia has a military base in Tajikistan, but its servicemen do not participate in protecting ... (More on P4)...(22)