

13.5 Mln People need Protection, Humanitarian Assistance in Syria: OCHA

GENEVA - The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said on Friday that some 13.5 million people were in need of some sort of protection and humanitarian assistance in Syria. The figure represents an increase of some 1.2 million people in just 10 months. According to OCHA, humanitarian access to people in need remains highly constrained. Four and a half million people live in hard-to-reach areas and the UN has been able to reach only a small fraction of those as a result of active conflict, shifting frontlines, bureaucratic



hurdles, and conditions imposed by the parties. Meanwhile, more than 11 million people require

health assistance and nearly nine million people are unable to meet their basic food needs.

Some 393,700 people live under siege. So far in 2015, the UN has only been able to reach 3.6 per-

cent of them with health assistance and only 0.5 percent with food per month. The UN esti-

ated that some 200,000 people live under siege in Deir-az-Zor city run by the Islamic State. Some 181,200 people are in various locations in eastern Ghutah, as well as Darayya and Zabadani in rural Damascus. Moreover, some 12,500 people are in places run by non-state armed opposition groups and the Nusra Front in Foah and Kefraya in Idlib. However, so far this year, only 23 of the 85 convoy requests made by the United Nations have been approved in principle by the Syrian ministry of foreign affairs. Less than half of those ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Top Legislature Starts AIBB Agreement Ratification Process

BEIJING - China's top legislature on Friday began deliberating the ratification of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) agreement, which will lay the legal framework for the bank. The China-advocated multilateral development institution is tasked with financing infrastructure construction across Asia. The 60-article agreement discussed by the legislature outlines the financial share of each founding member as well as rules on policymaking, governance structure, and business and operational systems. The AIIB will promote sustainable development of the Asian economy, create wealth and im-

prove infrastructure connections, Finance Minister Lou Jiwei said while briefing lawmakers at the opening of the five-day bimonthly session of the National People's Congress Standing Committee. The bank will cooperate with other multilateral and bilateral development organizations to promote regional cooperation and deal with challenges, according to Lou. The AIIB shows that China is committed to establishing an open, just and transparent international economic governance system, and it will provide a new platform for cooperation among ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Violence Denies Millions of Iraqi Children Access to Education: UNICEF

GENEVA - The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) on Friday said close to two million children in Iraq were out of school as the academic year in the conflict-stricken country concluded this week.

UNICEF said continuing violence had negatively impacted children's access to education. Nearly one million children remain displaced, 70 percent of whom have already lost an entire year of school. More than 5,300 schools across the country -- almost one in five -- cannot be used as learning centers because they have been destroyed, damaged, converted to shelter for displaced families or used for military purposes by



parties to the conflict. Meanwhile, in the past year alone, 67 attacks on schools and education personnel were reported. In northern Iraq, nearly 14,000 teachers have been forced to flee violence. "The impact of conflict, violence and displacement on education in Iraq is nothing short of devastating," said Peter Hawkins,

UNICEF's representative in Iraq. He noted that large numbers of children in host communities, displaced from their homes, as well as refugee children from Syria, continued to experience significant disruptions to their education, putting Iraq at risk of losing an entire generation to conflict.

UNICEF warned an additional 1.2 million children were at risk of dropping out. In order to continue responding to children's needs in education, UNICEF requires 68 million U.S. dollars by the end of the year, of which 12 million U.S. dollars are needed immediately. (Xinhua)

Russia Holds War Games Involving Numerous Missile Launches

MOSCOW - The Russian military has conducted a series of ballistic and cruise missile launches from sites across the country in the latest demonstration of the nation's military might. The Defense Ministry said Friday the exercise has involved launches from sites on the ground, at sea and in the air in what appeared to be one of the largest such maneuvers this year. The war games come as foreign ministers from Russia, the United States, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran and a dozen of other countries are meeting in Vienna to discuss a pos-



sible settlement for the war in Syria. The exercises involved the launch of a Kalibr cruise missile from a Russian ship in the Caspian Sea. Earlier this month, Russian navy ships in the southern Caspian

launched 26 such missiles at targets in Syria as part of Moscow's air campaign, which began Sept. 30. As part of the maneuvers, the Russian navy also launched intercontinental ballistic missiles

from two nuclear submarines in the Barents Sea and the Sea of Okhotsk, while a ground-based Topol intercontinental ballistic missile was launched from the Plesetsk pad in northwestern Russia. (AP)

S. Korea, Japan hold Commerce Ministers Meeting

SEOUL - Commerce ministers of South Korea and Japan met in Seoul on Friday. South Korea's Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy Yoon Sang-jick and his Japanese counterpart Mutoo Hayashi had the bilateral meeting at a hotel in Seoul on the sidelines of the trilateral dialogue with China's International Trade Representative Zhong Shan. The 10th round of the China-South Korea-Japan meeting of commerce ministers was held for the first time in three and a half years ahead of the upcoming trilateral summit in

Seoul Sunday between the three nations. During the bilateral talks, Yoon and Hayashi shared views that Seoul and Tokyo should strengthen cooperation in the economic sector, including trade, investment and company, for mutual interests. The ministers confirmed that South Korea and Japan are an important trade partner to each other as they are the third-largest trading partner to each other. Trade between the two countries has continued to slide from 108 billion U.S. dollars in 2011 to 94.7 billion dollars in ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

17 Refugees Drown off Greece

ATHENS - Seventeen refugees and migrants, including nine children, have drowned and many others remained missing off Greek islands by Friday in fresh tragedies. According to the Greek Coast Guard, 14 people died, 138 others were rescued, and an unclear number of people were missing when a boat carrying refugees from Turkey capsized near the Greek island of Kalymnos on Thursday night. In another tragedy that occurred Friday near Rhodes island amid strong winds, Greek authorities collected three dead bodies, rescued six people, while three others went missing. Since the start of this week, the Greek Coast Guard has rescued more than 1,000 people. And since the start of the year, according to the Greek Shipping Ministry, around 100,000 refugees have been rescued from Greek waters. Over half a million refugees and migrants have reached Greece since the start of 2015, and most of them would continue their journey to central and northern Europe, according to figures of the UN High Commission for Refugees and the International Organization for Migration. EU member states have promised to better coordinate their efforts to address the challenge and support countries which ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Houthis Say Efforts to Find Political Solution have Failed

DUBAI - A senior Houthi leader said efforts to convene U.N.-backed peace talks for Yemen were failing and blamed the United States and Saudi Arabia for continued aggression. The U.N. envoy OuldCheikh Ahmed said last week he was hoping to begin preparatory talks with the government and Houthis separately and expected formal talks between the sides "in the coming weeks". "All understandings for a political solution leading to the cessation of aggression have failed," Houthi spokesman Saleh al-Samad wrote on Facebook. "Statements put out by the media of the aggressor do nothing but deceive and mislead." A Saudi-led coalition has been carrying out air strikes on Houthi positions for seven



months, seeking to restore the Yemeni government forced into exile last year after the Iran-allied rebels took over the capital of Sanaa. The Houthis accuse the Saudi coalition of acting to further U.S. ambitions to dominate the region. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir told a news conference in Riyadh on Thursday that the bombing campaign may soon end,

noting the acceptance of U.N. Security Council Resolution 2216 by the Houthis and affiliated militias. The U.N. envoy wants the talks to focus on main elements of the resolution - withdrawing militias from key cities, releasing prisoners, returning heavy weapons seized from the army, improving the humanitarian situation and resuming dialogue. (Reuters)

Polish Court Rejects Polanski's Extradition to U.S.

WARSAW - Poland's Krakow District Court on Friday decided that extraditing of movie director Roman Polanski to the United States is "unacceptable" and "unlawful deprivation of one's freedom." The court's decision is legally invalid and the prosecutors can now appeal the ruling. The prosecutors argued that Polanski should be deported to the U.S., because the crime he committed - although lapsed in Poland - has not been lapsed in the U.S. Moreover, the penalty for the case will not be capital punishment. Polanski was not present in the court on Friday where he was represented by two attorneys. Instead, Polanski was allegedly seen on the private jet taking off from Krakow to Paris half an hour before the court decision was announced. The U.S. requested the extradition of Roman Polanski in the early 2015, when the director was present at the opening of the Museum of History of Polish Jews in Poland. The world-famous director of Polish descent escaped from the U.S. after he was accused of sexual intercourse with an underage in 1977. According to American law, such crime cannot be lapsed. Since 1978, Polanski has been living in France. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Merkel Visits Premier Li's Home Province

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Friday visited Hefei, capital of eastern China's Anhui Province, Li's home province. It is the first time that Li has invited a foreign leader to visit his home province. In the morning, they toured Hefei University, which was jointly founded by Anhui and the German state of Lower Saxony in 1984. The university has maintained exchanges with 17 German higher institutions and seen frequent exchanges of Chinese and German teachers and students over the past 30 years. Calling the university a great model of China-Germany cooperation,

Li said China is speeding up development of its vocational education, and hopes to learn from Germany in this regard. Li and Merkel said that Hefei University will act as a demonstration site for China-Germany education cooperation. The Chinese premier expects to cultivate more talent through vocational education to boost Chinese entrepreneurship. Merkel said she was confident in the future of bilateral youth exchanges and education cooperation, vowing to encourage more cooperation among the two countries' local governments. The two leaders tasted German-style beers brewed by students of the university. (Xinhua)

Sharif Says will not Tolerate Delay in CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif said on Friday that any delay in the implementation of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) projects will not be tolerated. "Delay in completion of projects under the umbrella of CPEC will not be tolerated," a statement from the PM office quoted the prime minister as saying. The CPEC, a 3,000-km network of roads, railways and pipelines linking Kashgar in north-west China's Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region and southwest Pakistan's Gwadar Port, is a major project of China's "Belt and Road"

initiative. During a meeting with Finance Minister Ishaq Dar on the status of the CPEC projects, Prime Minister Sharif said that the concerned officers and officials who fail to complete related projects timely will not be part of the team. "The CPEC is the future of Pakistan and its timely completion is top priority of the government," he said. The prime minister would personally review the pace and progress of the projects through the core team and direct the concerned authorities to update project benchmarks on a monthly ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Armenia, Tajikistan Agree to Expand Bilateral Cooperation

DUSHNABE - Armenian Prime Minister Hovik Abrahamyan met with Prime Minister of Tajikistan Kahir Rasulzoda in Dushanbe attending the Council of CIS heads of Government meeting. During the meeting, the two prime ministers discussed a number of issues of mutual interest. They stressed the need for closer cooperation in economic, humanitarian and other spheres, as well as in the framework of inter-

national organizations. Coming to trade and economic relations, the parties pointed to the need for revitalizing the activities of the intergovernmental commission through practical steps that will bring about tangible growth in bilateral trade turnover. The Heads of Government of Armenia and Tajikistan considered it important to expand and deepen cooperation in bilateral and multilateral formats. (Agencies)

Iran Backs Six-Month Syria 'Transition' at Vienna Peace talks

VIENNA/BEIRUT - Iran signaled on Friday it backed a six-month transition period in Syria followed by elections to decide Bashar al-Assad's fate, a proposal floated at peace talks as a concession but which the president's foes rejected as a trick to keep him in power. Sources who described the Iranian proposal said it amounted to Assad's closest ally dropping its insistence on him remaining in office. But Assad's enemies say a new election would keep him in power unless other steps were taken to remove him. His government held an election as recently as last year, which he easily won. His opponents have always rejected any

proposal for a transition unless he is removed. Iranian officials attended international peace talks on Syria for the first time on Friday in Vienna, a month after the balance of power in the 4-year-old civil war shifted in Assad's favor with Russia launching air strikes against his foes. Iran appears to be adjusting its stance in ways that could create more ground for compromise with Western countries that are coming to accept Assad cannot be driven from power by force. "Iran does not insist on keeping Assad in power forever," Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, a member of Tehran's delegation at ...*(More on P4)...(28)*