

# UN Still Unable to Deliver Life-Saving Aid in Syria as Truce Holds: Official

GENEVA - The UN Special Envoy for Syria said Thursday that UN aid convoys had not yet reached civilians trapped in besieged and hard-to-reach locations in Syria despite a nationwide ceasefire holding since Sept. 12.

"The second dividend of the U.S. and Russian agreement was, and remains, humanitarian access. That is what makes a difference for the people apart from no more bombs or mortar shelling taking place," Staffan de Mistura told the press. "Are we disappointed? Of course we are, but who is particularly disappointed are the Syrian



people," he added. While a ceasefire brokered by the United States and Russia

last week after marathon discussions appears to be respected by factions

at war since 2011, the diplomat said the Syrian government permits allowing

humanitarian convoys to reach priority locations including east Aleppo had

yet to be received.

A key point addressed by Washington and Moscow is how to manage the Castello Road, the only passage providing road access to east Aleppo where some 275,000 civilians are essentially trapped.

The plan, which remains too sensitive to make entirely public, is to disengage government troops and rebel forces and set up special status checkpoints along the road which runs through conflict lines.

This is hoped to give convoys the required security and clearance that has until now been lacking. (Xinhua)

## Early Stage of SDGs Implementation "Very Encouraging": Senior UN Official

UNITED NATIONS - The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) officially entered into force on Jan. 1, 2016, meaning that its implementation is now simply "at a very early stage," but the progress by the global efforts to carry out the universal development goals "is very encouraging," a senior UN official told Xinhua.

Wu Hongbo, the UN under-secretary-general for the economic and social affairs, said in a recent interview that "many

countries have already started delivering the 2030 Agenda at home, taking concrete steps and initiatives to set the implementation of the Agenda on solid ground domestically."

The 2030 Agenda, including its 17 SDGs, was approved by world leaders in September 2015 to serve as the blueprint for the global development efforts for the years leading up to 2030. The Agenda is also a plan for achieving a better future for all - laying out a path



over the next 15 years to end extreme poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and protect our planet.

"Many countries have already showed impressive ownership of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs," he said. "Less than one year after the ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Russia Cuts its Key Interest Rate Amid Sustained Inflation Drop

MOSCOW - The Russian Central Bank lowered on Friday its key interest rate by 0.5 percentage points to 10 percent, citing slowing inflation among signs of economic recovery.

The bank said in a statement that it intended to maintain this rate till the end of 2016 in order to support the sustainable inflation decline trend, and could cut it further in the first or the second quarter of 2017.

Russia's annual inflation fell to 6.6 percent

by Sept. 12 from 7.2 percent in July, "amid a more favorable external economic environment than expected earlier," the statement said.

It said the unemployment in Russia remained stable and low, import substitution stepped up and certain non-commodity exports expanded, while the industry, including technology-intensive production, discovered new opportunities for growth. But the bank ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Over 1 Mln South Sudanese Forced to Flee Their Homes: UNHCR

GENEVA - The number of South Sudanese who have taken refuge in neighboring countries topped the one-million mark this week, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported Friday.

This includes some 185,000 people who fled the African nation's capital Juba in July following an upsurge in violence.

Women and children make up most of those fleeing clashes between followers of President Salva Kiir and support-

ers of former first Vice President Riek Machar, UNHCR indicated. "The fighting has shattered hopes for a real breakthrough and triggered new waves of displacement and suffering, while humanitarian organizations are finding it very difficult for logistic, security and funding reasons to provide urgent protection and assistance to hundreds in need," UNHCR said in a statement. This also means that... (More on P4)...(21)

## EU Informal Summit to Define Common Priorities after Brexit

BRUSSELS - The 27 European Union (EU) leaders will meet for a summit without Britain in Bratislava to define common priorities after Britain's decision to quit the EU.

According to Donald Tusk, president of the European Council, these priorities should be securing external borders of the EU, fighting the threat of terrorism in Europe and elsewhere, bringing back control of globalization and finding a way to safeguard the economic and social interests of the EU citizens while remaining



open to the world. In his invitation letter ahead of the meeting, Tusk stressed that Bratislava summit should also

provide a road map for other important endeavors, such as economic and social development, jobs and opportunities for the

young, the single market, the digital agenda and investments. "The keys to a healthy ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Indian PM Holds Talks with Visiting Nepalese PM

NEW DELHI - India and Nepal Friday signed a couple of agreements after Prime Minister Narendra Modi held talks with visiting Nepalese counterpart Pushpa Kamal Dahal, who is on his first foreign visit after assuming office.

Addressing a joint media meeting in the Indian capital, Modi hailed the day as "a significant day in the history of our friendship". The Nepalese prime minister said his talks with Modi focussed on taking concrete steps to elevate relationship in all spheres. "Neighbourhood first policy is a common orientation. Trust and confidence are prerequisites of strong and sustainable relations," he said. (Xinhua)

**UN Team Urges AU to Expedite Creation of Hybrid Court for S. Sudan**

JUBA - A United Nations team formed to monitor and report on human rights situation in South Sudan on Thursday called on the African Union (AU) to expedite the process of forming a hybrid court to try perpetrators of rights abuses in the war-torn country.

The UN-backed South Sudan Commission on Human Rights concluded a seven-day mission to South Sudan, with a call for speedy formation of the hybrid court, and establishment of a truth commission by the South Sudanese government.

The setting up of the hybrid court by the AU is part of the terms of the August 2015 peace agreement, which aims to end more than two years of civil war in the South Sudan. The three-member UN team held meetings with ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Trump Aims 3.5 Percent Growth, 25 Million New Jobs in New York Speech

NEW YORK - U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump said his economic plan will produce annual 3.5 percent growth and create 25 million jobs over the next decade, as he spoke to the New York Economic Club on Thursday morning.

"We must replace the present policy of globalism," said the Trump, "and replace it with a new policy of Americanism." Trump claimed globalism has moved jobs and wealth overseas. He promised to lower taxes, remove regulations, unleash energy,



and negotiate trade deals that "put America First," in order to put American economy back on track. The speech is basically in line with the Republican nominee's economic plan unveiled in Detroit early

August. This time, however, he put more emphasis on employment and economic growth. "Right now, 92 million Americans are on the sidelines, outside the ... (More on P4)...(23)

## S. Africa Urges DPRK to Adhere to UN Security Council-Mandated Obligations

JOHANNESBURG - South Africa on Thursday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to adhere fully to its Security Council-mandated obligations, to return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and to fulfill its safeguards obligations with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA).

South Africa shares the concerns of the international community regarding the nuclear weapon- and delivery system-

related activities of the DPRK, the country's Department of International Relations and Cooperation (DIRCO) said in a statement.

The South African government has noted with serious concern the reported nuclear weapons test conducted by the DPRK earlier this month, DIRCO spokesperson Clayton Monyela said. This follows the nuclear weapons test conducted by the DPRK on Jan. 6, 2016 and subsequent ... (More on P4)...(26)

## SDF Sign MoU with and South Asian University



NEW DELHI, India - Dr. Sunil Motiwal, CEO, SAARC Development Fund (SDF) visited South Asian University to meet Dr. Kavita A. Sharma, President, South Asian University (SAU) in order to discuss areas of collaboration and to sign MoU with SAU.

Both SDF and South Asian University agreed to work together for the areas of Technical assistance, carrying out relevant research/studies, publications and collaborative arrangements for areas including trade facilitation, regional integration, economic cooperation, public private partnerships etc., holding of workshops/seminars/conferences, planning and implementing joint programs wherever required and capacity development.

About South Asian University South Asian University (SAU) is an international university established by the eight member nations of South Asian Association for Regional Co-operation (SAARC) viz. Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Nieghbor News

### Joint Iran-Russia Bank to Strengthen Local Currencies, Boost Trade: Official

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia are working on opening a joint bank in a move to help strengthen their mutual trade, Bahram Amirahmadiyan of the Russia-Iran Friendship Society said on Thursday.

"Currently, there is no Russian bank in Iran, and the Russian currency is not very well known on Iran's market," Amirahmadiyan was quoted as saying by Press TV.

"Also, opening Russian banks in Iran will lead to more currency operations and the strengthening of Russian ruble," he said.

The same holds true for Iranian rial in Russia, he said, adding that "that's

why we are waiting impatiently for this initiative to go ahead."

The idea of establishing joint Iran-Russia bank was put forward in October 2014, when head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce Asadollah Asgaroladi said that Iran and Russia were planning to establish a joint bank to multiply bilateral trade and bypass sanctions against the Islamic republic's banking sector.

The establishment of possible Iran-Russia bank would open a new chapter in bilateral trade relations that could break the domination of Western currencies over bilateral financial exchanges, Asgaroladi said. (Xinhua)

### China, Japan Agree to Speed up Negotiations on Air, Maritime Contact Mechanism

HIROSHIMA, Japan - China and Japan reached an agreement on speeding up the negotiation process on the air and maritime contact mechanism between the defense ministries of the two countries in the fifth round of high-level consultations on maritime affairs held here on Wednesday and Thursday.

The two sides agreed to devote themselves to safeguarding the peace and stability in the East China Sea.

They also agreed to hold the sixth round of expert panel consultations as soon as possible and continue to push forward the exchanges between

the defense ministries of the two countries. China's Ministry of Public Security and the Japan Coast Guard will continue cooperation in cracking down on transnational crimes, including smuggling, human smuggling and drug trafficking.

The China Coast Guard and the Japan Coast Guard agreed to give full play to the role of the existing contact mechanism and strengthen their exchange of information and personnel.

The two sides exchanged views on their sea-related policies and laws and agreed to continue carrying out dialogues in this regard. (Xinhua)

### Pakistani PM to Attend UN General Assembly's Session

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif is expected to lead a delegation to the 71st Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York from Sept. 19, an official announcement said on Friday.

The annual session of the general assembly has special significance as it is attended by a large number of heads of state and government.

"The prime minister will make a policy statement in the UNGA general debate on Sept. 21 to enunciate Pakistan's position, role and contribution on key international issues ranging from peace and security to development, and to highlight the vision and priorities of the govern-

ment," the Foreign Ministry said.

Sharif will also participate in the high-level meeting of the general assembly to address Large Movements of Refugees and Migrants and the Leaders' Summit on Refugees convened by U.S. President Barack Obama. "Pakistan will avail of these high level meetings to highlight its tremendous contribution to the cause of refugees as the host of the world's largest protracted refugee situation, and urge the international community to devote adequate political attention and support for the voluntary repatriation of Afghan refugees from Pakistan and their sustainable reintegration in ... (More on P4)...(27)

### Turkmenistan to Make Big Investments in TAPI Project

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan plans to allocate major part of investments to construction of TAPI gas pipeline, said the country's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during a meeting of the Council of Elders.

The groundbreaking ceremony for Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline with the capacity of up to 33 billion cubic meters of gas was held in mid-December 2015.

The total length of TAPI pipeline will be 1,814 kilometers and 214 kilo-

meters will pass through the territory of Turkmenistan, 774 kilometers - Afghanistan, 826 kilometers - Pakistan to Fazilka settlement on the border with India.

TAPI Pipeline Company Limited has been created for constructing and commissioning the pipeline. It is comprised of gas companies of the participating countries. Negotiations continue with other potential participants. Berdimuhamedov also spoke about the main spheres in which it is planned to make big investments. (Trend)