

# OHCHR Alarmed at Sharp Increase in Casualties after Yemen Peace Talks Suspended

GENEVA - A total of 180 people have died and a further 268 were injured in August after UN-mediated peace talks were put on hold last month, the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) warned Friday.

"This represents a 40 percent increase compared to the civilian casualties the previous month, with 60 killed and 123 injured," OHCHR spokesperson Cecile Pouilly reported.

"There has been an increased number of attacks against protected civilian objects, with at least 41 incidents affecting edu-



ational and health facilities, markets, places of worship, airports and civilian homes in August," she added.

The statement follows a deadly airstrike on a residential area in the town of Hudaydah on Sept. 21 which resulted in the deaths of 26 civilians and a further 24 sustaining injuries.

"The death toll could be much higher, as our team continues to collect information," said Pouilly.

Yemen has been locked in a civil war since the Houthis seized power and overturned the Yemeni government in late 2014. (Xinhua)

## True Cost of UK Leaving EU Without Trade Deal Revealed: Brexit

LONDON - The damage to Britain's goods exporters of leaving the European Union without a new free trade deal in place would be at least £4.5bn a year - and in all likelihood many multiples of that - an investigation by The Independent has found.

David Davis, the Brexit Secretary, admitted earlier this month that it was possible the UK could leave the EU without a deal and would be forced to trade with the rest of the continent under

World Trade Organisation rules. And the International Trade Secretary Liam Fox issued a press release in August that suggested to exporters this could be the ultimate outcome of Brexit.

Some trade experts are concerned that even if the Government tries its best



to negotiate a free trade agreement with the EU it could be impossible to complete within the two-year timetable for Britain to leave after the Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty is ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Moscow Concerned over Possible Supply of U.S. Lethal Weapons to Ukraine: Russia

MOSCOW - Russia is concerned over the prospect of U.S. supplying Ukraine with lethal weapons, a senior Russian Foreign Ministry official said Thursday.

U.S. House of Representatives, the lower house of the U.S. Congress, unanimously approved the Stability and Democracy for Ukraine Act on Wednesday, which provides the legal basis for granting lethal defensive weapons to Kiev.

"It cannot but cause concern, because how is it possible to combine

work to restore lasting peace with lethal weapons supplies?" Mikhail Ulyanov, head of the ministry's Department for Non-Proliferation and Arms Control, was quoted as saying by RIA Novosti news agency.

The bill, which has yet to be passed by the U.S. Senate, the upper house, and signed into law by the U.S. president, contradicted several international agreements imposing restrictions on supplies of lethal weapons to conflict zones, said... (More on P4)...(25)

## Turkey Beefs Up Security in SE Province over Possible IS Attack

ANKARA - Turkey on Friday tightened security measures in the southeastern border province of Gaziantep following intelligence that the Islamic state (IS) group may attack mosques during Friday prayers in the city, Dogan News Agency reported.

All mosques in the city were cordoned off and the roads to them were sealed off.

Turkish security forces were dispatched around the city to en-

hance security check. On Thursday, Turkish F-16 jets destroyed at least five IS buildings in northern Syria, killing about 40 militants, the Turkish General Staff said in a statement.

The operation came hours after rockets from IS-controlled spots hit Turkey's Kilis. On Aug. 20, a suicide bomber targeted a wedding in Gaziantep province, killing 56 people and injuring 66 others. (Xinhua)

## ASEAN Energy Ministers Pledge Enhanced Cooperation in Energy Security, Sustainability

NAY PYI TAW - Energy ministers of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) have pledged to enhance cooperation in areas of energy security and sustainability and broaden collaboration with the bloc's dialogue partners and international organizations.

ASEAN ministers made the pledge at the end of their 34th ASEAN Ministers on Energy Meeting (AMEM) late on Thursday. With the theme of "Toward Greener Community with Cleaner Energy", the four-day meeting discussed



strategies to achieve higher aspirational targets to improve energy efficiency and increase the uptake of renewable energy sources

in line with the ASEAN Plan of Action for Energy Cooperation (APAEC) 2016-2020. The meeting agreed on

the aspirational target to increase the component to renewable energy to 23 percent by 2025 in ... (More on P4)...(26)

## Russian-Indian Military Drills Begin in Russia's Far East

VLADIVOSTOK - The joint Russian-Indian Indra-2016 drills started Friday at the Sergeyevsky shooting range in Russia's Far Eastern Primorsky Territory, said Russian Eastern Military District (EMD).

Over 500 Russian and Indian members of the military, 50 units of infantry fighting vehicles, T-72 tanks, an unmanned aerial vehicle detachment, as well as EMD's attack and army aviation are involved in the drills, said the district's spokesperson Vladimir Matveev. The joint military exercises will end on Oct. 2. The two countries have been conducting anti-terror drills since 2003. Previous joint drills with EMD's participation were conducted in 2013 at the Mahajan shooting range in India. (Xinhua)

## S. Sudan Sentences 77 Soldiers on Murder, Rape and Looting Charges

JUBA - South Sudan Army (SPLA) on Friday convicted and sentenced 77 of its soldiers on charges of murder, rape and looting to imprisonment and death, its spokesman said.

Spokesman Lul Ruai Koang told journalists in Juba that majority of the soldiers sentenced committed these crimes during the eruption of intense fighting on July 8 in the capital between troops loyal to President Salva Kiir and sacked former First Vice President Riek Machar.

"A total of 77 SPLA soldiers have been sentenced, some to death, some to so many years in prison. Two have been sentenced to 14 years in prison including a captain who was accused of rape. Another soldier accused of murder ... (More on P4)...(28)

## NATO to Hold Exercise Ramstein Alloy 3 in Baltic Air Space

BRUSSELS - NATO will hold Ramstein Alloy 3, a training event with participation of NATO allies and partner countries in the Baltic air space on Sept. 27-28, the security organization said Friday.

The tri-annual event uses training scenarios to enhance air policing procedures and Allied-Partner relationships by using NATO's Baltic Air Policing (BAP) assets and regional air forces.

Similar to previous Ramstein Alloys, the two-day schedule features the newest rotation of aircraft and personnel support-



ing NATO's BAP missions, which have been carried out since 2004.

At present, the French Air Force fighters were deployed to Siauliai, Lithuania as the lead BAP nation, with German Eurofighters augmenting the BAP mission in Am-

ari, Estonia. During Ramstein Alloy 3, Poland, along with Alliance partners Sweden and Finland, will join the French and German fighters to participate in air-to-air intercept, search and rescue and communication ... (More on P4)...(27)

## Bombardment Kills 30 Civilians in Aleppo: Activists

DAMASCUS - Nearly 30 civilians were killed Friday by bombardment in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, a monitor group reported.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights claimed that the shelling came from Syrian and Russian warplanes, which reportedly struck several districts in the rebel-held eastern part of Aleppo city.

The incident came a day after the Syrian Defense Ministry announced the beginning of a new offensive on rebel-held areas

in eastern Aleppo. The statement urged the civilians to stay away from the positions of the rebel groups.

It added that the authorities in Aleppo have taken all measures to facilitate the accommodation of the civilians who are leaving the rebel-held areas.

The military offer also includes the rebels who want to abandon the insurgency. Earlier this week, tens of civilians left rebel-held areas upon ... (More on P4)...(29)

## Humanitarian Convoy Reaches Besieged Syrian Town: UN



GENEVA - A 23-truck convoy was able to deliver life-saving assistance to 35,000 people trapped in the besieged Syrian town of Madamiyet on Thursday, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) reported Friday.

"The assistance included food, medical supplies, nutrition, education, and non-food supplies. The trucks and the drivers returned safely to Damascus after delivery," said OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke.

Located in rural Damascus, the area was last reached two months ago. Thursday's delivery means that almost 1.3 million people have been reached across the war-torn country since relief operations kicked off earlier this year.

This has been done through 115 inter-agency convoys, 85 airlifts, and 122 air-drops, Laerke said.

"We continue to plan for further cross-line and cross-border deliveries as soon as conditions on the ground allow us to do so," he added.

Syria's five-year civil-war has meant that some 13.5 million civilians are in need of assistance, of which almost 5.5 million are living in besieged and hard-to-reach areas. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### Russian Troops Arrive in Pakistan for Joint Exercises: Army

ISLAMABAD - Russian ground forces arrived in Pakistan on Friday for the first ever Pakistan-Russia joint exercise, the army said.

The two-week exercises will start on Sept. 24 and continue until Oct. 10, the army spokesman said.

The military exercises, named as "Friendship-2016" will be conducted in mountainous areas of northern areas and at a special forces training center in Cherat area of Khyber Pakhtoonkhwa province.

The joint exercises is seen important for the growing cooperation between the two armies. Russian Foreign Ministry had earlier stated that exercises are aimed at strengthening and developing cooperation between the countries armed forces.

Section of the Pakistani media has reported around 200 military personnel from the two sides would take part in the exercises. Pakistan's Ambassador to Russia Qazi Khalilullah ... (More on P4)...(30)

### Iran's IRGC Says Ready to Shower "Jungle of Missiles" over Enemies

TEHRAN - A senior commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said that the Islamic republic will respond to any threat by the enemies by showering missile over them, Iranian media reported on Friday.

The country has "a jungle of missiles" deployed at tunnels and silos and other locations, which are ready to be fired at enemies if there is a need, Press TV quoted Brigadier General Hossein Salami as saying.

"We would chase any enemy seeking to cause the slightest damage to Iran's self-esteem and independence no matter where in the world they would be," Salami said in a televised speech.

He said that Iran has been building and modernizing its own military equipment despite the arms and economic embargoes it is facing. Also, Iran now competes with the superpowers in producing unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), he said. "Our UAVs can fire rockets at any capture footage from (targets) within a range of 3,000 kilometers." "Some big powers have even made demands for our products," he added. Salami reiterated Iran's support for Lebanese Hezbollah and Palestine and said the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah and fellow Palestinian groups are "completely popular and defending their rights." (Xinhua)

### Chinese Envoy Calls on Syrian Parties to Find Solutions Through Negotiation

NEW YORK - All Syrian parties should return to the negotiation table to find solutions and make compromise to resolve the five-year-old Syrian crisis, said Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Li Baodong on Thursday.

Li spoke at an International Syria Support Group (ISSG) ministerial meeting held in New York. He noted that countries need to go beyond national interests and geopolitics, and exert joint efforts to avoid greater global crises.

Li said the international community should progress in parallel in terms of cease-fire, political negotiations, humanitar-

ian assistance and counter-terrorism, give full play to the role of UN Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura, and re-launch a political process as soon as possible. All parties should form synergy and make concerted efforts at national, regional and international levels on the Syria issue in accordance with Security Council Resolution 2254, he added.

Li said China welcomes the fact that Russia and the United States have reached a cease-fire agreement on Syria and hopes that the new deal can inject fresh impetus into improving the situation in Syria. (Xinhua)

### Belarus-Tajikistan Cooperation Hailed as Dynamic, Efficient

MINSK - The Belarusian-Tajik cooperation has been developing steadily and efficiently, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Tajikistan to Belarus Kozidavlat Koimodov said at the event held on 22 September to mark the 25th anniversary of Tajikistan's independence, BelTA has learned.

The head of the diplomatic mission noted that Tajikistan has made great headway in all the areas over the years of its independence. In the foreign policy the country is guided by the principles of openness and cooperates with other states in international

organizations. "Despite the negative influence of the global economic crisis, the country's economic growth has made nearly 7% in the past 15 years," Kozidavlat Koimodov stressed.

In his words, this year the two countries also mark the 20th anniversary of the diplomatic relations. Cooperation between Belarus and Tajikistan is based on a robust legal framework, with over 60 agreements signed to regulate bilateral cooperation in many areas. Kozidavlat Koimodov expressed confidence that the Belarusian-Tajik contacts would continue expanding. (Agencies)