

UN Chief Urges End to Conflict in Yemen

ABU DHABI - UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called Tuesday on all warring parties in Yemen to commit to a comprehensive and permanent cease-fire to push forward peace talks facilitated by the UN, UAE state news agency WAM reported.

The UN chief made the appeal during his meeting with Yemeni Vice President and Prime Minister Khaled Mahfoudh Abdullah Bahah in Abu Dhabi, where he is attending the World Future Energy Summit.

He reiterated his deep concern over the contin-



ued conflict, mounting number of civilian cau-

salties and alarming hu-

manitarian crisis in Yem-

en, despite repeated calls from the international community for an end to the hostilities. The year-

long conflict between various factions has killed thousands of people, displaced 2.5 million and imperiled the food security of 7.6 million. Ban exchanged views with the Yemeni vice president on how to renew the cease-fire and prepare for a new round of political negotiations. He also stressed the need for all sides to implement confidence-building measures discussed in Switzerland last month, including the release of prisoners, and full and unhindered humanitarian access, including to the central town of Taiz. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Pakistan PM to Attend WEF at Davos on Jan 20-25

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will participate in the Annual Meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) to be held at Davos, Switzerland, from 20 to 25 January, officials said on Monday.

At the WEF Annual Meeting 2016, 3,000 heads of states/government, top business leaders, academics and media leaders are expected to attend the meeting, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will participate

in a number of global events and hold bilateral meetings with important political and business leaders.

In an event focusing on South Asia, the prime minister will present his vision of Pakistan highlighting the government's efforts towards regional stability and connectivity. Other participants in this event will include Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe of Sri Lanka, the President of the Asian Development Bank, and Nobel Peace Prize Winner... (More on P4)... (26)

S. Korea Worries about Wrong Signal to DPRK Nuke Test

SEOUL - South Korean President Park Geun-hye on Tuesday expressed worry about sending a wrong signal to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) unless strong UN sanctions are imposed on Pyongyang over its fourth nuclear test. Park told a cabinet meeting that if strong and effective measures are not drawn up, it would give a wrong signal to the DPRK that the international society can

do nothing over Pyongyang's fifth and sixth nuclear tests. The president urged officials to make diplomatic efforts to draw up strong and comprehensive sanctions from the UN Security Council by closely cooperating with allies. Tensions rose on the Korean Peninsula after the DPRK claimed on Jan. 6 that it tested its first hydrogen bomb. South Korea resumed blaring propaganda messages... (More on P4)... (18)

Children on Syrian Refugee Route Could Freeze to Death: U.N.

GENEVA - Thousands of refugee children traveling along the migration route through Turkey and southeastern Europe are at risk from a sustained spell of freezing weather in the next two weeks, the United Nations and aid agencies said on Tuesday. The U.N. weather agency said it forecast below-normal temperatures and heavy snowfall in the next two weeks in the eastern Balkan peninsula, Turkey, the eastern Mediterranean and Syria, Lebanon, Israel and Jordan. "Many children on

the move do not have adequate clothing or access to the right nutrition," said Christophe Boulierac, spokesman for the U.N. children's agency UNICEF. Asked if children could freeze to death, he told a news briefing: "The risk is clearly very, very high." Children were coming ashore on the Greek island of Lesbos wearing only T-shirts and soaking wet after traveling on unseaworthy rubber dinghies, the charity Save the Children said in a statement. "Aid work-



ers at the border reception center in Presevo say there is six inches of snow on the ground and children are arriving with blue lips, distressed and shaking from the cold," it said. It said temperatures were... (More on P4)... (20)

Indian PM Kicks off Assembly Poll Campaign in NE India

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Tuesday kicked off campaign for the assembly polls in the northeastern state of Assam by slamming the Congress party which has been in power in the state for the past 15 years. "Those who could not do anything in the last 15 years expect me to do everything in 15 months. None of the promises made to people of Assam for 12 to 13 years have been fulfilled. It has become a fashion

not to give account of your own work but blame others," Modi said. The prime minister, who was addressing a political rally in the state's Kokrajhar district, promised fast-track development in the state. "My three-point programme for Assam is - development, development, development," he said. The country's main opposition party Congress has been ruling Assam for the past 15 years. However, India's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party has



seen an increase in its support base in the past two years and has won half of Assam's 14 parliament seats in 2014. Experts say it's a 50-50 chance for the BJP in Assam, and unless it... (More on P4)... (21)

Russia Key to Resolving Syria, N. Korea Issues: Japan FM

TOKYO - Japan's foreign minister pledged Tuesday to continue talks with Russia even though the two countries still lack a World War II peace treaty, saying Moscow is key to resolving international threats from Syria and North Korea. Fumio Kishida also announced \$350 million in new aid to help stabilize Syria and its neighboring countries amid the region's massive refugee crisis, following \$810 million in earlier humanitarian support. Kishida said in a speech

in Tokyo that a diplomatic dialogue between Japan and Russia is indispensable, even though a territorial dispute has prevented them from technically ending their World War II hostilities. He said the two sides are seeking to hold summit talks "at the most appropriate time" this year. Media reports say Prime Minister Shinzo Abe might visit Russia in April for talks with President Vladimir Putin ahead of a Group of Seven leaders' meeting in... (More on P4)... (22)

Xi Arrives in Saudi Arabia, Starts 3-Nation Mideast Visit

RIYADH - Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived in Saudi Arabia Tuesday on the first stop of his three-nation tour of the Middle East, as the world's second-largest economy seeks closer political and economic ties with the region. This is the first state visit by a Chinese head of state to Saudi Arabia in seven years. Xi will also travel to Egypt and Iran on his first overseas visit this year that lasts from Jan. 19 to 23.

at the airport. "Since China and Saudi Arabia forged diplomatic ties 26 years ago, our relationship has developed by leaps and bounds, with mutual political trust deepening continuously and rich results in cooperation in various fields," Xi said in written remarks upon arrival. During his two-day stay in Riyadh, Xi is scheduled to hold summit talks with King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud to discuss lifting bilateral ties to a comprehensive strategic partnership. He will also meet chiefs of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation. (Xinhua)

'Staggering' Death Toll for Iraqi Civilians Since 2014: UN

GENEVA - The number of civilians killed in violence in Iraq over the past two years is "staggering", the United Nations said Tuesday, with a death toll of at least 18,802 people and another 36,245 injured. Those figures, which are likely an underestimate, count casualties incurred from January 1, 2014 through October 31, 2015, according to a report by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the UN human rights agency. "Even the obscene casualty figures fail to accurately reflect exactly how terribly civilians are suffering in Iraq," UN rights chief Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein warned in a statement. "The figures capture those who were killed or maimed by overt violence, but countless others have died from the lack of access to basic food, water or medical care," he pointed out. The UN said around 3.2 million people have been internally displaced in Iraq since the beginning of 2014 when the Islamic State (IS) group took over large parts of the country. (AFP)

Britain Launches New Measures to Protect Schoolchildren from Extremism

LONDON - Tough new measures to protect children from the "spell of twisted ideologies" were announced Tuesday by Britain's education secretary, Nicky Morgan. A new landmark website giving advice to parents and children on preventing extremism has been created as part of a package to protect children from extremism. Morgan announced the program at the Bethnal Green Academy, the East London school where four of its girl students left for Syria to join the terror group known as Islamic State. The new 'Educate



Against Hate' website offers parents, teachers and school leaders advice to protect children in and out of school to keep them safe from extreme views. The move comes a day after Prime Minister David Cameron announced a 30-million-U.S. dol-

lar fund to help Muslim women learn to speak English to help them integrate into British society. Other measures announced Tuesday at Bethnal Green Academy include a significant escalation of investigations... (More on P4)... (23)

Obama, Turnbull to Meet Tuesday at White House



WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama is welcoming his first foreign leader of the new year, Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, for talks that will cover the Islamic State militant group and a 12-nation Pacific Rim trade agreement that includes their countries. Other global, regional and bilateral issues are also on Tuesday's agenda for meetings the White House says will cover the "extraordinary breadth" of the U.S.-Australian alliance. Turnbull is on his first visit to the U.S. since taking office last September. Obama will welcome him to the Oval Office before continuing their talks over a working lunch. Last week, as Turnbull prepared for the trip, Australia said it was among 40 countries being pressed by the U.S. to boost their military contributions in Iraq and Syria against the Islamic State after the deadly terrorist attack in Paris in November. But Australia told the U.S. that its commitment would remain largely unchanged. Australia has six jet fighters based in Dubai flying missions against Islamic State targets in Iraq and Syria. It also has soldiers in non-combat roles in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. (AP)

Turkey Ends Anti-Kurdish Rebel Operation in 1 Town

ANKARA - Turkey's prime minister announced Tuesday that military operations against Kurdish rebels have ended in one mainly Kurdish southeastern town. The military is still fighting militants linked to the Kurdistan Workers' Party, or PKK, in two other urban areas. Ahmet Davutoglu told re-

porters during a visit to London that the operation in Silopi, near the border with Iraq, has ended "successfully," that a 24-hour curfew has now been eased and reconstruction efforts would soon begin. The security forces launched large-scale operations in Silopi, in the nearby town of Cizre and in... (More on P4)... (24)

Singapore Conducts Anti-Terror Exercise

SINGAPORE - An anti-terrorism exercise with over 1,800 officers has been conducted in Singapore, according to the Singapore Police Force (SPF) on Tuesday. SPF, with support from the Singapore Civil Defence Force (SCDF) and other Home Team agencies, conducted this island-wide exercise at various locations which will last from Jan.

18 to 19. This exercise tested the readiness of Singapore's forces in responding to multiple island-wide armed attacks, SPF said, adding that it will continue to conduct similar exercises with other agencies as part of preparations to deal with national security incidents. Singapore has stepped up security... (More on P4)... (25)

Tajikistan Recognized as most Starving Country in Central Asia: Global Hunger Index

BISHKEK - Tajikistan was recognized as the most starving country in Central Asia with 30% of the level of food shortage, according to the Global Hunger Index 2015 prepared by the experts of the International Food Policy Research Institute. The Index was made on the basis of the study of such features as the percentage of population that is undernourished, the level of underdevelopment of children under 5 years and the percentage of children, who die before the age of five. So, according to the document, 33.2% of the population of Tajikistan

was undernourished, the percentage of underdevelopment of children up to 5 years made 26.8% and the mortality rate of children under 5 years was 4.8% in 2015. Kazakhstan was a leader among the Central Asian countries with 8% of the level of hunger. Second place was gained by Kyrgyzstan with 9.4%, then Turkmenistan - 12.9%, Uzbekistan - 13.3% and Tajikistan with a serious level of hunger among the population - 30.3%. The most starving country of the world was recognized Republic of South Africa - 45.9%. (AKIpress)