

Yemen's Very Existence Hangs in Balance: UN Head

GENEVA - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon warned on Monday after holding meetings with representatives of the Yemeni government and the Group of 16 plus that "in Yemen's case, the ticking clock is not a time-piece, it's a time-bomb." "Our goal was to have joint meetings this morning, but logistical issues made this impossible," the UN head said, while assuring that all consultations participants were expected to arrive later on Monday. The UN-led Geneva Consultations on Yemen, or Yemen Consultations, held in Geneva's Palais des Nations,



are the first of its kind to involve the different sides of the Yemeni conflict since hostilities resumed, thus marking an important step as the parties embark on the road towards a settlement. The members of the "Group of Sixteen" include the Ambassadors of China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, the United States, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Egypt and Turkey, as well as the Gulf Cooperation Council and the European Union. (Xinhua)

Israel Bans Entry of UN Human Rights Envoy

JERUSALEM - Israel has prevented the entry of a UN human rights envoy to its territory, prior to the release of a UN report on Israel's offensive in the Gaza Strip last summer, a Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed to Xinhua on Monday. Makarim Wibisono, from Indonesia, is the UN's Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967.



It's the second time that he has been denied access to the Palestinian territories under Israeli occupation, after being denied entry last year. He was barred from reaching the territories of east Jerusalem

and the West Bank. Israel occupied the West Bank territories amid the 1967 war and annexed east Jerusalem in 1981. The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said that the reason behind the move is the biased stance of the Human Rights committee against Israel. The Human Rights Council is set to release a report in the upcoming days on the conduct of both Israel and Hamas, the ... (More on P4)...(25)

UN Human Rights Chief Urges Europe to Accept More Migrants

BERLIN - The United Nations' human rights chief is urging European nations to accept more refugees and to do more to fight prejudice and discrimination against migrants once they arrive. Zeid Raad al-Husseini told the U.N. Human Rights Council in Geneva on Monday that

he was "shocked and shamed by the frequent demonization of migrants that we see in many countries whose people benefit from prosperity, peace and ease." Zeid said the number of migrants dying in the Mediterranean is "cause for profound alarm" and commended the European Union's intensified

search-and-rescue effort. But he urged "far bolder steps" to push the message that the EU needs and should welcome more migrants of all skill levels. He urged leaders to "counter the growing bigotry about migrants," warning it could escalate into violence. (AP)

UN Envoy to Syria Arrives in Damascus for Talks

DAMASCUS - United Nations Special Envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, arrived in here Monday for meetings on his extended talks in Geneva and other humanitarian issues.

Coming from Beirut, Lebanon, Mistura is scheduled to meet with top Syrian officials during his three-day stay, in which he will explain why the Geneva talks, previously set to end in June, was delayed to July, according to local media. In May, Mistura began one-on-one discussions in Geneva with Syrian delegations, including government officials, opposition parties, and representatives of some other countries in the region, which have influence in the course of Syrian conflict. The UN envoy's visit came



amid rumors that Mistura had asked Washington to exert military pressure on Damascus for the ouster of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad.

Al-Watan, a Syrian daily newspaper close to the government, said on Monday that Mistura might use the visit to address the rumors. (Xinhua)

Poland Expects U.S. to Decide on Arms Stationing Soon

WARSAW - Poland expects the United States will decide within a few weeks whether to station heavy military equipment in the NATO member state, Polish Defense Minister Tomasz Siemoniak

said on Monday. "The decision is for the United States. As far as I know, this is a non-distant horizon... non-distant means the nearest few weeks," he told reporters. A U.S. official said at the week-

end that Washington planned to store heavy military equipment in the Baltics and eastern Europe to reassure allies unnerved by Russia's role in Ukraine and to deter aggression. (Reuters)

Jordan Concerned over UNRWA's Financial Crisis

AMMAN - Jordan said on Monday that it is deeply concerned over a financial crisis a UN agency that helps the Palestinians is going through, urging the international community to offer more support, the state-run Petra news agency reported.

A deepening gap between the financial needs of the United Nations Relief and Works Organization (UNRWA) and support by the donor countries is a major challenge, Jordan's Minister of State for Media Affairs Mohammad Momani said at a meeting of the agency's consultative committee. Jordan is home to the largest number of Palestinian refugees, Momani said. He added that tension and stability will continue in the Middle East unless ... (More on P4)...(27)

British PM Urges Human Rights Overhaul on Magna Carta Ceremony

LONDON - Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday called for an overhaul of British human rights laws as he marked the 800th anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta at a ceremony led by Queen Elizabeth II. The commemoration was held on the meadow in Runnymede, south England, where on June 15, 1215 the queen's distant predecessor King John sealed the foundation document for Western parliamentary



democracy. Addressing the crowd, Cameron said the charter had "shaped the world for the best part of a millennium". "What happened here eight cen-

turies ago is as relevant today as it was then," he said. "The seeds sown here have grown throughout the world. In America; in ... (More on P4)...(26)

Turkey's Main Opposition: Erdogan Must Stop 'Meddling'

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey's opposition parties should form the next government, the largest of them said Monday, and also laid out terms for joining any coalition government, including forcing President Recep Tayyip Erdogan not to exceed his constitutional powers. The ruling Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, which Erdogan founded, came out first in Turkey's June 7 elections but lost its parliamentary majority. The three other parties represented in parliament together got close to 60 percent of the vote. Erdogan is widely expected to ask Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu to form a coalition with one of the other parties or seek a fragile minority

government. New elections could be held if the parties fail to form a government. Main opposition leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu said his center-left Republican People's Party was not ruling out any party but said he believed the opposition parties - "the 60 percent bloc" - should build the next government. Kilicdaroglu outlined the principles he believed coalition partners should adhere to, including ensuring that Erdogan - a dominant political figure who ruled as prime minister for more than a decade until 2014 - does not "meddle in everything." He also said Erdogan should not be involved in the coalition-building talks. (AP)

2 Killed, Dozens Wounded in Eastern Ukraine as Hostilities Flare Up

KIEV - At least two people were killed and 30 others wounded in eastern Ukraine over the past 24 hours amid escalation of hostilities, Ukrainian government and rebel authorities said Monday. "As the result of growing hostilities, over the past 24 hours we have lost two soldiers and 20 others were injured," said Ukraine's military spokesman Andriy Lysenko. Describing the situation in the conflict zone as "deteriorating", Lysenko said that pro-independence insurgents fired on Ukrainian positions 80 times

in the previous day, trying to advance towards government-controlled areas. In turn, the insurgent leadership said that the rebel forces are strictly adhering to the commitment they have made under the Minsk ceasefire agreement and accused the Ukrainian army of preparing an offensive. The rebel-run Donetsk municipal council said that at least 10 civilians were wounded during a shelling of the insurgent stronghold of Donetsk overnight, blaming the government forces for the incident. (Xinhua)

71 Killed in Airstrikes, Clashes with IS Militants in Iraq



BAGHDAD - At least 71 people were killed on Monday in U.S.-led coalition airstrikes and clashes between the Iraqi security forces and militants of Islamic State (IS) group in the provinces of Anbar, Nineveh and Salahudin, an official and security sources said. In Anbar province, the security forces and allied militias, known as Hashd Shaabi, or Popular Mobilization, attacked a convoy of IS vehicles at Houran area in Iraq's western desert and destroyed three tankers carrying fuel and two vehicles, the Iraqi Ministry of Defense said in a statement.

The attack, which was based on intelligence reports, also left at least 10 IS militants killed, the statement said. Also in the province, the security forces and allied militias repelled a several-hour IS attack on Jubba area near the town of Baghdadi, some 200 km northwest of Baghdad, killing 13 militants along with destroying weapons and equipment of the attackers, the statement added. The army artillery also pounded the IS positions during the battle in Jubba, leaving at least eight IS militants killed, it said. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

China Rejects U.S. Charges on Hacking

BEIJING - China rejected accusations from U.S. officials that Chinese hackers gained access to the sensitive background information submitted by intelligence and military personnel for security clearances on Monday. "There are too many rumors on condition of anonymity. I don't have time to comment on each of them," Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said, referring to the U.S. allegation of China on hacking. Earlier this month, databases containing standard personnel records of government employees

were hacked. Several U.S. senators said the attack came from China. What the international community hear and see is that the U.S. steals information, even in an organized way, from political figures, businesses and individuals in violation of international laws, Lu said. "U.S. cybertheft is widely condemned," he said. He reminded the U.S. not to forget it owes an answer to the international community on hack charges against it. "It will be more persuasive to make its own things clear before groundlessly blaming others." (Xinhua)

Iran Sends Official to Riyadh for Yemen Talks

TEHRAN - The Iranian deputy foreign minister for Arab and African affairs has arrived in Saudi Arabia to take part in high-level talks attended by senior officials from Muslim countries on the ongoing conflict in Yemen. Hossein Amir-Abdollahian arrived in the capital Riyadh on Monday to attend a meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on the Yemen issue, AFP reported. The extraordinary meeting, which is to be held on Tuesday in the Red Sea city of Jeddah, is based on a request by the deposed government of Yemen, the OIC said in a statement, adding that the gathering has the backing of the majority of its member states.

Amir-Abdollahian's visit to Riyadh is the first such high-level trip by an Iranian official since Saudi Arabia started its aggression against Yemen almost three months ago. The attacks, which have been mostly in the form of deadly airstrikes targeting population centers and sensitive infrastructure across Yemen, has claimed more than 2,300 lives, according to the UN. However, Yemeni sources have put the death toll at at least 4,300.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have been at odds over some regional issues, including those of Lebanon, Bahrain and Iraq. Tehran has repeatedly called for negotiations on major regional developments. (Agencies)

PM Nawaz Orders Expedient Review of Laws Regulating INGOs

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Monday directed the high level inter-ministerial committee set up to oversee operations of international non-government organisations (INGOs) to expeditiously review laws regulating INGOs working in Pakistan. A meeting of the committee was held in Islamabad on Monday under the chairmanship of Special Assistant to Prime Minister Tariq Fatemi, reported Radio Pakistan. The committee, which has been set up to review laws and regulations regarding accreditation and working

conditions of INGOs in Pakistan, has been directed by the premier to submit a report as soon as possible. INGOs have come under the government's radar after a 2012 Pakistan intelligence report linked aid group 'Save the Children' to Dr Shakeel Afridi, who the CIA allegedly used to carry out a fake vaccination programme as they searched for Al Qaeda chief Osama bin Laden. Last week, authorities ordered closure of 'Save the Children' in Pakistan on grounds that the international aid group was "working against the country". (Agencies)

Uzbekistan-France Business Forum Held in Tashkent

TASHKENT - An Uzbek-French business forum was held late last week in the Uzbek capital Tashkent, the Jahon information agency reported. The event brought together heads of ministries, state departments, and business companies of the two countries responsible for cooperation in the fields of trade, investment, industry, environment, transport, communications, and energy. The agenda of the business forum aimed at expanding trade and investment relations between Uzbekistan and France. During the forum French guests learned about the investment climate in Uzbeki-

stan, including opportunities offered by the country's Navoi and Angren special industrial and economic zones. The French side highly appreciated the economic potential of Uzbekistan and expressed interest in expanding business with Uzbek partners in such areas as mechanical engineering, automotive, environmental, chemical and petrochemical, electrical, pharmaceutical, and food industries. Currently, the trade and economic cooperation between Uzbekistan and France is governed by the provisions of the Agreement on Partnership and Cooperation between Uzbekistan and the EU. (TICA)