

WEST BANK (FNA) – The Zionist regime's former National Fraud Unit Chief Lt. Commander Ephraim Bracha took his own life after his name was implicated in Pinto corruption case. The Zionist regime's police announced the suicide of Ephraim Bracha on Sunday, the head of the police's National Fraud Unit who became the center of the Rabbi Yoshiyahu Pinto corruption scandal, Arutz Sheva reported.

I wonder at the mentality of a miser, fearing poverty he takes to stinginess and thus hastily pushes himself head- long into a state of want and destitution, he madly desires plenty and ease, but throws it away without understanding. In this world he, of his own free will, leads the life of a beggar and in the next world he will have to submit an account like the rich.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

22 Dead, Including 6 Civilians in US Airstrikes in Syria

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – US airstrikes in Syria have killed sixteen ISIL terrorists as well as six civilians, including one child, a monitor says. The new airstrikes, carried out in the Syrian city of Raqa on Saturday and Sunday, wounded dozens of others, said the so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. “The significant air strikes tonight were executed to deny Daesh (IS) the ability to move military capabilities throughout Syria and into Iraq,” spokesman Lieutenant Colonel Thomas Gilleran said. “This was one of the largest deliberate engagements we have conducted to date in Syria and it will have debilitating effects on Daesh’s ability to move from Raqa.”

Gilleran said that coalition forces were able to strike multiple targets “successfully”, destroying ISIL structures and transit routes. He added that the terrorists’ “freedom of movement” was severely restricted by the air raids. The US and its allies have been conducting air strikes on the ISIL terrorists, who currently control parts of Syria and neighboring Iraq. The group has carried out crimes such as public decapitations and crucifixions against all ethnic and religious groups, including Shias, Sunnis, Kurds, Christians, Izadi Kurds and others. Meanwhile, at least two people have been killed and over a dozen others injured in mortar attacks by

foreign-backed Takfiri terrorists in and around the Syrian capital, Damascus. A civilian was killed and nine others sustained injuries on Saturday after 9 shells fired by the terrorists hit several residential neighborhoods in Damascus, Syria’s official news agency, SANA, quoted an unnamed source with the Damascus Police Command as saying. The source added that at least three cars were set afire and material damage was caused to a number of houses and shops in the attack. The Takfiri terrorists positioned in the Eastern Ghouta region of the Syrian province of Rif Dimashq fired the mortar shells.

In a separate development, at least a woman was killed and nine others were injured after rockets fired by terrorists landed in the residential areas of al-Kashkoul and al-Kabbas near Damascus. Cities and towns across Syria have been hit by bomb attacks, mortar and rocket fire by Takfiri terrorists since conflict broke out in the Arab country more than four years ago. More than 230,000 people have since been killed in Syria. Backed by Western powers and their regional allies, including Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Turkey, the terrorists have forced over 3.8 million Syrians to take refuge in neighboring countries, namely Jordan and Lebanon.

HRW Report Details ISIL Rampage in Kobani



A fighter of the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG) walks past the bodies of two ISIL terrorists following fighting in the Syrian border town of Kobani.

WASHINGTON (Dispatches) – Human Rights Watch (HRW) has detailed an atrocious rampage by the Takfiri ISIL terrorist group against civilians in the Syrian border city of Kobani. The prominent rights group said in a report on Friday that most civilians were killed on the early hours of June 25, when the terrorist group stormed the Kurdish town near the Turkish border.

The report included eyewitness accounts and a series of interviews with the families whose relatives were tortured or killed by ISIL terrorists in the troubled region. “Fifteen witnesses, including eight of the wounded, described to the HRW the deliberate killing of civilians by attackers who local authorities and residents identified as [members of] ISIL,” the report said. The report quoted local residents and witnesses as saying that the terrorists followed civilians into houses to kill large numbers of family members. The attackers began shooting civilians as they fled down streets or tried to drive to safety, HRW said, noting that snipers also fired on civilians from rooftops and took dozens of civilians hostage. Meanwhile, Letta Taylor, a senior terrorism and counter-terrorism researcher at the HRW, said that

the terrorists’ primary aim was to spread terror among the local population. “Survivors describe an ISIL killing rampage whose main objective was apparently to terrorize local residents,” Taylor said, adding, “By all accounts, this was a planned attack on the civilian population of this area.” Local Syrian Kurdish authorities say that the assailants used machine guns, assault rifles, grenades and knives to kill the civilians. They estimate that more than 200 civilians, including children, women and elderly individuals, were killed during the ISIL terror campaign across the volatile region. The rampage ended on June 27, when Kurdish People’s Protection Units (YPG) forces regained full control of the city. The latest attack came months after ISIL terrorists were driven out of the town by Kurdish forces back in January after about 100 days of fighting. The ISIL terrorist group has gained notoriety for its barbarity, heinous atrocities and sacrilegious acts. The Takfiri terrorist groups control parts of Syria and Iraq, and have been carrying out horrific acts of violence such as public decapitations and crucifixions against religious and ethnic communities.

US Drone Attacks Claim 13 Lives in E Afghanistan

KABUL (Press TV) – At least 13 people have been killed in the latest US assassination drone strikes in eastern Afghanistan, Press TV reports. Afghan authorities said on Sunday that 13 people were killed in two separate air raids carried out the day before in the eastern provinces of Nangarhar and Kunar. Local officials claimed that

12 of those killed in the drone strikes belonged to the Afghan Taliban militant group and one was a Pakistani militant. The Taliban is yet to comment on the report. The assaults come after another US drone attack targeted two residential buildings in the Lal Pur district of Nangarhar on June 30, killing at least 14 people and injuring more than a dozen others.

An aerial assault in the same province, which lies on the border with Pakistan, reportedly killed at least seven people on June 20. The United States carries out targeted killings through drone strikes in Yemen, Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Somalia. While Washington claims the targets of the attacks are mili-

itants, witnesses maintain that, in most cases, civilians have been the victims of the airstrikes. Afghanistan faces a security challenge years after the United States and its allies invaded the country in 2001 as part of Washington’s so-called war on terror. The offensive removed the Taliban from power, but many areas in the country are still witnessing violence and instability.

Ansarullah Urges UN Action for Pause in Saudi Strikes on Yemen

SANAA (Dispatches) – A leading member of Yemen’s Houthi Ansarullah movement has called on the United Nations (UN) to speed up its efforts for implementing a humanitarian truce in the war-torn country. Ansarullah’s spokesman Mohammad Abdulsalam said Saturday that he has held a meeting with the UN special representative for Yemen in which he renewed calls for establishing a ceasefire for delivering aid to the people affected by Saudi Arabia’s three-month-long military campaign against Yemen. In a post on his Facebook page, Abdulsalam said he had discussed in a Friday meeting with Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed ways of achieving a ceasefire in Yemen until the end of the holy month of Ramadan. The Ansarullah member said the European Union special envoy to Yemen as well as the German ambassador to the country also attended the meeting, which took place in the Omani capital of Muscat. The three sides have reportedly agreed on a mechanism for delivering humanitarian aid to people across Yemen if the UN pledge for hammering out a truce materializes. Other reports on Saturday said the UN envoy has intensified negotiations with top officials



Houthi fighters of Yemen's Ansarullah movement walk amidst the debris of a house destroyed in a Saudi air-strike, in the capital, Sana'a.

in Saudi Arabia to convince them about Yemen’s urgent need for a humanitarian pause. The United States and the European Union voiced similar concerns on Thursday about the deteriorating situation in Yemen, calling on the sides to the conflict to let food and medicine reach those in need across the impoverished country. The EU also called on Riyadh

to reduce its restrictions on the entry of ships to the Yemeni ports. Saudi Arabia has been pounding different areas in Yemen since March 26 without any authorization from the United Nations and regardless of international calls for the cessation of its deadly campaign against the Arab country. The main objective behind the

Saudi aggression against Yemen is to weaken the Houthi Ansarullah movement and to restore power to the fugitive former President Abd Rabbuh Mansour Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh. The UN says at least 2,600 people have been killed and 11,000 others wounded in the Saudi military campaign in Yemen.

McCain Blasts US Timetable for Afghan Withdrawal

KABUL (AFP) – Senator John McCain has criticized a White House plan to withdraw all American troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2016. “I think the most serious mistake the US could make... would be to have a calendar-based withdrawal,” McCain told reporters at the NATO headquarters in Kabul on Saturday, according to AFP. The Arizona Republican marked the Fourth of July holiday – the US Independence Day - with US soldiers stationed in the Afghan capital. McCain, the chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee, said the complete pullout of troops would be “an opening for the Taliban to gain great success in Afghanistan.” NATO’s combat mission in Afghanistan formally ended in December last year, 13 years after it started with the stated goal of removing the Taliban from power. US President Barack Obama

has backpedalled on plans to reduce the troop size in Afghanistan by nearly half this year, agreeing to keep 9,800 soldiers until the end of 2015. However, the Obama administration has indicated that it would remove all its personnel over the next 15 months. McCain said that plan required a “reassessment” as Afghan forces incurred heavy losses with major cities under threat of a resurgent Taliban. “The threat environment continues to evolve in ways that clearly, in my view, demands a reassessment of the administration’s current calendar-driven drawdown of US forces with a plan that must be based on conditions on the ground,” he stated. Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, whose nominee for defense minister was rejected by lawmakers for the second time on Saturday, met with McCain in the capital.