

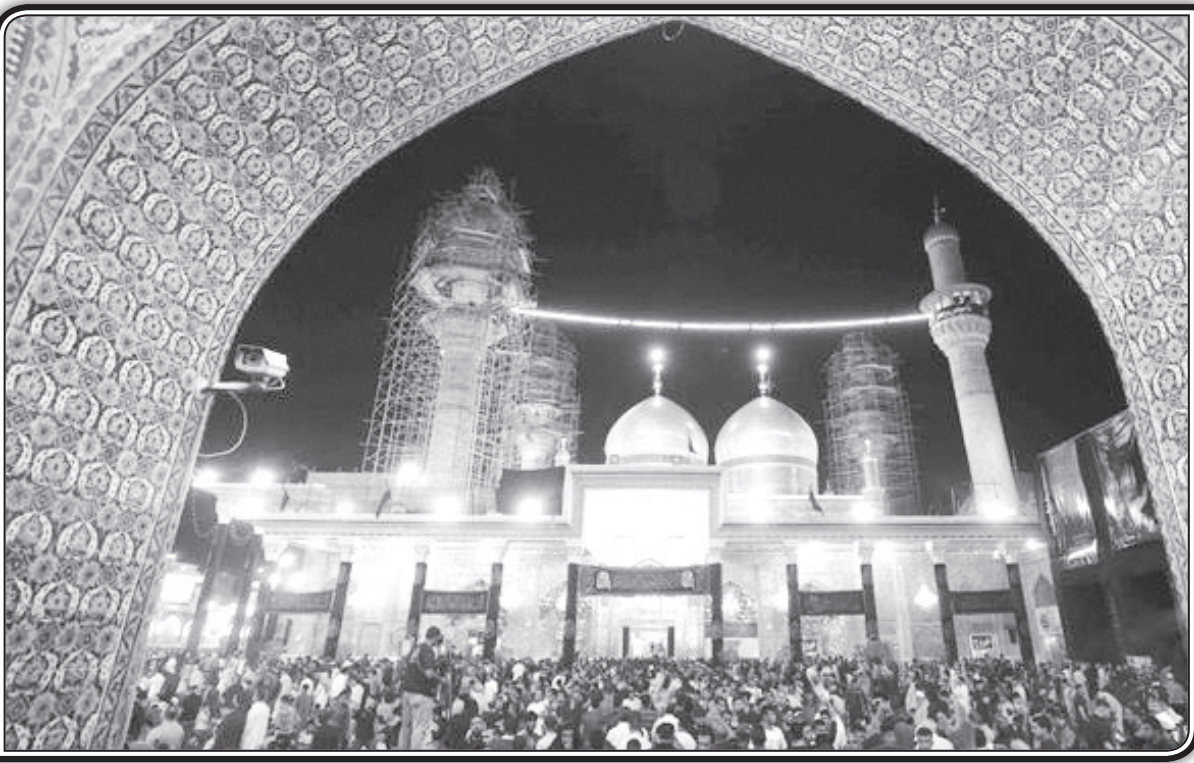
Thousands of Terrorists Arrive in Syria

DAMASCUS (FNA) – Syrian Information Minister Omran al-Zoubi informed on Tuesday that thousands of terrorists have crossed the border into his country in the last few days.

“Around 6,000 terrorists have crossed the border and entered Syrian territories in recent days,” the Arabic-language media outlets quoted al-Zoubi as saying on Tuesday.

Late in April, Syrian Prime Minister Wael Nader al-Halqi also warned that more than 5,000 fresh militants crossed the border into the Northwestern provinces of Aleppo and Idlib from Turkey, stressing that the ceasefire agreement was being violated by certain parties.

Millions of Iraqis Mark Martyrdom Anniv. of 7th Shia Imam



Shia Muslim worshippers mourn as they gather at the holy shrine of the 7th Shia Imam, Imam Musa ibn Jafar al-Kazim (PBUH) during a ceremony to mark his martyrdom anniversary in the northern district of Kadhimiya in the Iraqi capital, Baghdad.

BAGHDAD (Press TV) – Millions of people have converged in Baghdad to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of the 7th Shia

Imam, Imam Musa ibn Jafar al-Kazim (PBUH), amid tightened security measures.

On Tuesday, Iraqi security forces

blocked all main roads in Baghdad to ensure the safety of the pilgrims who traditionally travel on foot to the neighborhood of Kadhimiyah in

northern Baghdad, where the shrine is located.

The commemoration takes place despite security threats. At least 18 Shia pilgrims were killed and 45 people injured in a car bombing claimed by Daesh terrorists just on Monday.

“This pilgrimage represents a defeat for terrorism,” Mohammed Nayif, 32, from Iraq’s Babil Province said, adding, “We are not afraid of the explosions and nothing will stop us.”

An official from the shrine said that millions of people have taken part in the pilgrimage in recent days.

Gruesome violence has plagued the northern and western parts of Iraq ever since Daesh terrorists launched an offensive in June 2014 and took control of portions of Iraqi territory.

Latest figures released by the United Nations (UN) show that at least 741 Iraqi people, including soldiers and civilians, lost their lives in violence in the country in the month of April.

‘Nine Arab Countries Experienced Worsening Corruption in 2015’

RIYADH (Press TV) – People in nine Arab countries, including Egypt and Jordan, say they experienced worsening government corruption last year, according to a new study.

The study, by Germany-based Transparency International, showed that one third of the people in the countries surveyed have had to pay a bribe for some kind of public service.

The study surveyed people in Sudan, Morocco, Egypt, Yemen, Lebanon, Algeria, Tunisia, Jordan and the Palestinian territories.

Almost 11,000 people, or nearly

1,200 people in each country, were surveyed.

The study indicated that courts had the worst bribery rate out of the six services that were studied.

The report said “the majority of people in the region perceive corruption to have risen recently (61 percent).” They believe that “government officials and members of parliament are highly corrupt.”

Half of the people surveyed in Sudan, Morocco and Egypt said they have had to pay bribes for public services.

The study showed the rate of

worsening corruption in Lebanon at 92 percent, in Yemen at 84 percent, and in Jordan at 75 percent. The rate in Egypt stands at 28 percent and in Algeria at 26.

“Public dissatisfaction with corrupt leaders and regimes has been a key catalyst for change in the Middle East and North Africa, notably with the Arab Spring protests,” said the group.

Arab Spring is the phrase sometimes used to describe the series of uprisings and revolutions that started across the Middle East and North Africa in 2011 against unem-

ployment, inflation as well as corruption, among other things.

“Yet, despite half a decade having passed since many of these protests first took place, our Global Corruption Barometer still finds widespread public dissatisfaction with government efforts to curb public sector graft,” it added.

“It’s as if the Arab Spring never happened,” Transparency International’s chief Jose Ugaz said.

The 2011 revolutions, which started with Tunisia, resulted in changes in the governments of Tunisia itself, Egypt, Libya, and Yemen.

Zionist Regime Pushes for ‘Annexation’ of West Bank

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – The Zionist regime is pushing for a plan to apply its own law in the illegal settlements in the West Bank in a move condemned by critics

there will be equal condition either through military order or legislation.”

In recent years, most such moves have failed, but several similar bills



A general view of the Zionist settlement of Moddin Elite surrounded by a separation wall near the West Bank city of Ramallah

as “creeping annexation” of the occupied Palestinian lands.

Ayelet Shaked, the Zionist minister of judiciary affairs, said she is working on a plan with the attorney general to implement Zionist law in the occupied West Bank.

A committee to work on the plan would be set up to decide if the Zionist regime law could immediately be applied to the settlements through orders by the military commander of the region.

The military advocate general urged the attorney general in the previous Knesset to develop clear regulations for cases when Israeli law should be implemented in the occupied West Bank via the military commander’s order.

“We took the military advocate general’s letter, and it should be implemented,” the minister said. “There will be a team that takes the laws and examines each on a case-by-case basis.”

“There should be an equalizing of conditions. Basic Laws do not apply” in the West Bank,” Shaked said at a conference on Sunday.

“My goal is that within a year

are currently at the Knesset.

Two controversial bills passed the first reading at the Knesset three months ago and entered the next stage. The bills demand the application of tax advantages to owning homes or earnings obtained in the illegal settlements.

Member of Knesset Merav Michaeli condemned the approval of the bills at the time, saying, “While the world boycotts the settlements and their products, the Zionist regime encourages investments in the settlements.”

She also accused Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of “imposing a creeping annexation in the territories. It will take years to fix the damage that Netanyahu is doing to Israel and the world.”

Over half a million Israelis live in more than 230 illegal settlements built since the 1967 Zionist occupation of the Palestinian territories of the West Bank including East al-Quds.

All Zionist settlements are illegal under the international law. Tel Aviv has defied calls to stop the settlement expansions in the occupied Palestinian territories.

Saudi Arabia Again Warns US Over 9/11 Bill

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia has warned the US against passing a bill that could expose Riyadh to litigation over the September 11, 2001 attacks after threatening Washington with selling off its US-based assets.

If passed, the bill would take away immunity from foreign governments in cases “arising from a terrorist attack that kills an American on American soil.”

Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir delivered the latest warning in Geneva after meeting with his American counterpart John Kerry.

Jubeir said if the bill is signed off on, foreign investors would lose confidence in the United States.

“We say a law like this would cause an erosion of investor confidence,” Jubeir said.

He did not make it clear how the passage of the bill could scare capital away from the US since the bill is widely believed to be particularly geared toward highlighting Saudi Arabia’s role in the 9/11 attacks

The perpetrators of the attacks were

mostly Saudi nationals and believed to have been linked to Saudi officials.

The Hill newspaper, which is published by Capitol Hill Publishing and covers congressional news, reported recently that Saudi Arabia had an army of Washington lobbyists to deploy as it tries to stop the US Congress from lending its blessing to the bill.

The New York Times reported last month that Riyadh had threatened to sell off up to USD 750 billion worth of Saudi assets in the US if the Congress passes the law.

The selling of the assets would prevent them from being frozen by US courts if American victims are enabled to sue Saudi Arabia over the 9/11 terror attacks.

Attempting to rationalize Riyadh’s opposition to the legislation, the top Saudi diplomat said, “In fact, what they are doing is stripping the principle of sovereign immunities, which would turn the world for international law into the law of the jungle.”

Terrorist Attacks Kill Dozens in Syria’s Aleppo

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Foreign-backed terrorists shell a hospital and several neighborhoods in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, killing dozens of people and injuring many others.

Syria’s official SANA news agency said at least three women were killed and 17 others injured after terrorists fired several rockets at al-Dabit Hospital in the government-controlled Muhafaza district of the troubled city on Tuesday.

Separately, rocket fire by terrorists on other government-held neighborhoods killed another 11 people, it added.

The so-called Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, a UK-based monitoring group affiliated to so-called Syrian opposition, said that at least 19 people lost their lives and 80 others were wounded in the shelling of government-held areas of Aleppo on Tuesday.

The Syrian army issued a statement, saying al-Qaeda-linked Nusra Front, Ahrar al-Sham, and Jaish al-Islam of carrying out the shelling attacks.

The army also vowed to make “the appropriate response to the sources of fire.”

Over the past few days, foreign-backed terrorists have

conducted rocket attacks on several government-controlled neighborhoods in Aleppo, leaving heavy casualties and a ceasefire deal in tatters.

The truce, brokered by Russia and the United States, went into effect late February in a bid to facilitate negotiations between warring sides to the conflict.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told reporters after talks with UN envoy Staffan de Mistura in Moscow that a cessation of hostilities could be announced in Aleppo “in the next few hours.”

“I am hoping that in the near future, maybe even in the next

few hours such a decision will be announced,” Lavrov said

Several hospitals and clinics have previously been hit by deadly terrorist attacks in the embattled city.

This comes as heavy fighting between foreign-backed terrorists and Syrian government forces continue in Aleppo.

The chaos comes despite the existing nationwide ceasefire in Syria. The Takfiri ISIL terrorists and al-Nusra Front are excluded from the “cessation of the hostilities” agreement reached in late February as an attempt for facilitating peace talks.