

Avalanche Kills 5 Soldiers, Injures 12 in Turkey

ANKARA (Dispatches) — At least five soldiers died and 12 others were injured in Turkey's southeast hit by an avalanche Officials say. The avalanche occurred Sunday near the town of Hizan in southeastern Turkey's mountainous Bitlis province, according to the governor's office for the region. Officials said the soldiers were conducting military operations.

One who says unpleasant things about others, will himself quickly become a target of their scandal.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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'East Jerusalem Must Be Capital of Palestine': Jordan's King



A wounded Palestinian is evacuated during clashes with Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin on January 18, 2018. (Photo by Reuters)

AMMAN (Press TV) - Jordanian King Abdullah II bin al-Hussein has criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem al-Quds as the capital of Israel, stating that East Jerusalem al-Quds must be the capital of a future independent Palestinian state.

During talks with U.S. Vice Mike Pence in Amman on Sunday, King Abdullah pointed to the so-called two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, saying the U.S. move would fuel radicalism and inflame Muslim and Christian tensions.

The report comes as Israeli Hebrew-language Haaretz newspaper said the Israeli ministry for military affairs had confirmed the army was studying a plan to assume responsibility for the situation in the Shuafat refugee camp and the Kafr Aqab district in

East Jerusalem al-Quds.

Those areas are in the jurisdiction of Jerusalem al-Quds, but are cut off from the rest of the occupied city by Israel's apartheid wall, which has been under construction since 2002.

The International community considers Israel's administrative control over East Jerusalem al-Quds as occupation since the regime invaded the area during the 1967 Arab War and then annexed it.

On December 6 last year, Trump announced his decision to recognize Jerusalem al-Quds as Israel's capital and relocate the U.S. embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to the occupied city.

The dramatic shift in Washington's policy vis-à-vis the city triggered demonstrations in the occupied Palestinian territories, Iran, Turkey, Egypt, Jordan, Tunisia, Algeria, Iraq, Morocco and other Muslim countries.

On December 21, the United Nations General Assembly overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution that calls on the U.S. to withdraw its controversial recognition of Jerusalem al-Quds as Israeli "capital."

UN Appeals for \$3bn in Aid to Yemen



SANAA (Dispatches) — The United Nations and its partners have appealed for nearly \$3 billion in aid to Yemen, where a Saudi-led coalition is at war with militants known as Houthis.

Jamie McGoldrick, the U.N. humanitarian coordinator in Yemen, told reporters in Sanaa on Sunday that it was the largest such appeal ever launched for Yemen, and was aimed at providing the "only lifeline for millions."

He says the aid would be channeled to the neediest in Yemen, including communities where "the risk of famine, disease outbreak, and protracted displacement converge." The U.N. hopes to reach some 13 million people.

The appeal, made on behalf of

UN agencies and humanitarian partners, came as 11.3 million people "urgently require assistance to survive", UN aid agency OCHA said in a statement.

"A generation of children is growing up in suffering and deprivation," OCHA said.

"Nearly two million children are out of school, 1.8 million children under the age of five are acutely malnourished, including 400,000 who suffer from severe acute malnutrition and are 10 times more likely to die if they do not receive medical treatment."

Last year, donors covered 70 percent of a \$2.34 billion appeal.

Since 2015, the fighting has killed some 10,000 people and pushed millions to the brink of famine.

Egypt Opposition Hits Snag on Path to Presidency



Mohamed Anwar Sadat speaks during a news conference in Cairo, Egypt.

CAIRO (Dispatches) - Six months into laying the groundwork for his presidential bid, Egyptian hopeful

Mohamed Anwar Sadat hit a snag: he could not find a hotel prepared to hire him a space to launch his

campaign.

"One said they were completely booked for a year ... another told us they got instructions from security agencies not to hold a conference for this person," said Osama Badie, his media coordinator for the campaign.

Printers refused to print Sadat's manifesto, Badie said. He declined to name the three major Cairo hotels that had turned down the campaign and did not identify five printing firms that had declined to do business with them.

Those challenging President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi in an election to be held in March describe a sweeping effort to kill off their campaigns before they begin, with media attacks on candidates, intimidation of supporters, and a nomination process stacked in

favor of the former general.

Egypt's electoral commission declined to immediately comment on opposition concerns. The government press office did not immediately respond to questions about the candidates' assertions when contacted by Reuters by telephone and in writing.

The electoral commission has pledged to run the vote "according to principles of independence, transparency and objectivity".

Sisi announced late on Friday that he would run for a second term as president. The election is Egypt's third since the 2011 uprising that deposed President Hosni Mubarak.

Campaigning was allowed to begin from Jan. 20, but opposition organizers say their efforts to get their campaigns off the ground are being stifled.

Iraq Condemns German Woman to Death for Belonging to Daesh



Baghdad (Dispatches) - An Iraqi court said Sunday it had condemned to death by hanging a German woman of Moroccan origin after finding her guilty of belonging to Daesh.

She was sentenced for providing "logistical support and helping the terrorist group to carry out crimes," said court spokesman Abdel Settar Bayraqdar.

"The accused admitted during interrogations that she left Germany for Syria then Iraq to join

the Daesh with her two daughters, who married members of the terrorist organization," he said.

In September 2017, the same court sentenced to death by hanging a Russian man who was captured in Iraq's second city Mosul and found guilty of fighting for the terrorist group.

Iraqi forces expelled Daesh from Mosul in July 2017, ending three years of Takfiri rule in the city.

Saudi to Build 9 Desalination Plants on Red Sea

RIYADH (Reuters) - Saudi Arabia plans to build nine desalination plants for more than 2 billion riyals (\$530 million) on the Red Sea coast, its environment minister said on Sunday.

The plants will have capacity of 240,000 cubic meters of water per day and will be completed in less than 18 months, Abdulrahman al-Fadhli wrote in a Twitter post.

The project, which the minister said was ordered by King Salman in a royal decree, will help government-owned Saudi Saline Water Conversion Corp (SWCC)

raise production efficiency and cut operating and capital costs, Fadhli added.

He gave no details on funding. Saudi Arabia said in 2016 it planned to use public-private partnerships (PPP) with local and foreign companies to fund infrastructure projects.

In August, it said it would develop resorts on about 50 Red Sea islands, completing the first phase of that project - which is backed by its Public Investment Fund (PIF) - in the fourth quarter of 2022.

