

## Yemen Calls on UNESCO to Save Old City of Sana'a

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The General Organization for the Preservation of Historic Cities of Yemen (GOPHCY) has appealed to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and international bodies to save the historic city of Sana'a which has been damaged by heavy rain.

"The old buildings of Sana'a that survived hundreds of years could be lost at any moment, due to the persistence of heavy and unprecedented rains which resulted in a near total collapse of a number of inhabited buildings," GOPHCY said in a statement reported by the Saba news agency.

Oppression and tyranny are the worse companions for the Hereafter.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

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# WFP: 13 Million in Yemen Need Food Aid



Displaced Yemenis, who fled fighting between Houthi Ansarullah fighters and militiamen loyal to former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, are pictured at a makeshift camp in the district of Abs, in Yemen's northwestern province of Hajjah on May 13, 2019.

SANA'A (Dispatches) – The Executive Director of the UN World Food Program, David Paisley, says that as many as 13 million Yemenis receive food aid from the WFP through a network of aircrafts, ships, trucks and warehouses.

Late last week, the program said that its grain warehouse in Huday-

dah had exhausted its last shipment amid fears of starvation in the war-torn country.

According to the United Nations estimates, years of Saudi-led war in Yemen has caused the worst humanitarian crisis in the world with more than 80 percent of the country's population in need of humani-

tarian aid.

The death toll in the Saudi-led war since 2015 reached 100,000 in October last year, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), which tracks confirmed fatalities in the conflict.

Meanwhile, the United Nations

and partner organizations are assessing humanitarian needs for more than 10,000 displaced people fleeing their temporary shelters from severe flooding in several parts of Yemen, a UN spokesman said on Tuesday.

Farhan Haq, the deputy spokesman for UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres, said that while it is too early for casualty estimates, the destruction of homes, relief supplies and other property has been reported.

Emergency assistance is being mobilized for the worst affected areas in Abyan, Marib, Amran, Saada, al-Jawf, Ibb and al-Dhale governorates.

Heavier than usual rains have battered Yemen this year, which is worsening an already catastrophic humanitarian situation that includes the growing risk of famine, the devastating impact of COVID-19 and other challenges, the spokesman said, adding that more rain is expected in the coming days.

Haq said the Yemen relief response plan is only 21 percent funded. Cuts to donor funding are forcing core programs to close or reduce support across sectors, including food, water, health and nutrition.

## Saudi Arabia Moving Towards Nuclear Bomb?



Saudi Deputy Minister for Electricity Saleh Bin Hussein al-Awaji (1st from right, front row), and officials from the South Korean energy giant KEPCO celebrate the completion of a 1,204-megawatt thermal power plant in Rabigh, Saudi Arabia.

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia, with help from China, has built a facility for the extraction of uranium yellowcake, a potential precursor to fuel for a nuclear reactor, in a remote desert location near the small city of Al Ula, the Wall Street Journal newspaper reported citing Western officials with knowledge of the site.

The facility, which has not been publicly acknowledged, has raised concern that the kingdom's nascent nuclear program is moving ahead, and Riyadh is keeping open an option to develop nuclear weapons, according to the report.

Disclosure of the yellowcake processing facility is likely to elevate concern in the U.S. Congress about Saudi nuclear ambitions and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's 2018 threats to build a nuclear bomb.

The Saudi Energy Ministry "categorically" denied to the Wall Street Journal the country has built a uranium ore milling facility, but acknowledged contracting with Chinese entities for uranium exploration within Saudi Arabia.

The Chinese embassy in Washington, DC, did not respond to a request by the Wall Street Journal for

comment.

Yellowcake is processed from naturally occurring uranium ore and can be further enriched to create fuel for nuclear power plants and, at very high levels of enrichment, nuclear weapons.

Saudi Arabia has signed agreements with China National Nuclear Corp and China Nuclear Engineering Group Corp following a 2012 pact between Riyadh and Beijing to cooperate on the development of nuclear energy.

The Saudis have raised concerns about a potential nuclear arms race in the Persian Gulf region by pressing ahead with construction of a research reactor and inviting companies to bid on building two civilian nuclear power reactors without agreeing to oversight and inspection by the United Nations International Atomic Energy Agency.

A U.S. congressional committee issued a report in May 2019 warning the administration of President Donald Trump was allowing U.S. companies to offer Saudi Arabia nuclear technologies without first obtaining non-proliferation guarantees the know-how would not be used to eventually produce a weapon.

## Rocket Hits Green Zone in Iraq's Baghdad

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) – A Katyusha rocket landed on Wednesday in the heavily fortified Green Zone in central the Iraqi capital Baghdad, an Interior Ministry source said.

The attack took place before dawn when a rocket landed in the zone, which houses some of the main Iraqi government offices and the U.S. embassy, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

No group has so far claimed responsibility for the attack, as the military bases housing U.S. troops across Iraq and the U.S. embassy have been frequently targeted by mortar and rocket attacks.

On Monday, two rockets fell in the vicinity of Iraq's Taji military base, which is located north of the Baghdad capital and hosts U.S.-led coalition troops.

"The security forces found two rockets near Camp Taji and in the vicinity of the district of Al Moshahda", a source told Al Sumaria broadcaster, adding that the landing did not result in a blast.

The base repeatedly comes un-

der rocket fire attacks, as does Baghdad's international airport and the so-called Green Zone of the Iraqi capital, where government buildings and embassies are located.

The most recent attack on Camp Taji took place late on 27 July.

Anti-U.S. sentiments have been running high in Iraq since Washington assassinated top Iranian commander Qassem Soleimani and the second-in-command of the Iraqi popular mobilization units, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, in January.

Following the attack, Iraqi lawmakers unanimously approved a bill on January 5, demanding the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

Baghdad and Washington are currently in talks over the withdrawal of American troops.

Iraqi resistance groups have vowed to take up arms against U.S. troops if Washington fails to comply with the parliamentary order.

The U.S. says it is going to withdraw its forces from Iraq slowly and partially, but Iraqi lawmakers have urged an immediate and full withdrawal.

## Palestine Extends State of Emergency While Easing Lockdown

WEST BANK (Dispatches) – Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas has extended the state of emergency for 30 days to prevent the spread of coronavirus infections, Wafa news agency reported.

At the same time, the Palestinian government declared easing the lockdown.

Government spokesman, Ibrahim Milhem, announced that a daily follow-up committee including all ministries and security agencies will be

in charge of combating the pandemic outbreak in their assigned fields.

This will be achieved by conducting field inspections and overseeing operations through special committees, he added.

As part of the easing of lockdown measures, cafes, restaurants, sports clubs and gyms are allowed to reopen at "50 percent operational capacity" in line with the Ministry of Health's relevant protocols.

However, public events in-

cluding weddings will remain banned, and areas severely hit by the pandemic will be isolated and monitored, stressed Milhem.

In addition, a total lockdown will be in place during weekends from Thursday 9:00pm to Sunday morning, with businesses operating during the week from 7:00am to 12:00pm.

According to the latest figure provided by the Palestinian Ministry of Health, 604 new cases of COVID-19 were

confirmed in the past 24 hours, while a 57-year-old woman died of the disease in the southern West Bank district of al-Khalil.

In total, Palestine has registered 16,628 cases, of which 12,692 were found in the West Bank, 78 in the Gaza Strip and 3,858 in East al-Quds.

A total of 7,929 patients have recovered and the death toll reached 89, leaving a total of 8,610 active cases, said the ministry.

## Doctors: Turkish COVID-19 Outbreak Worse Than Reported

ISTANBUL (Dispatches) – Doctors in Turkey's coronavirus hotspots say hospitals are filling up with more cases than are reflected in the official nationwide count, which resurged above 1,000 this week.

Intensive care units (ICUs) and emergency rooms in hospitals set aside for COVID-19 patients are at capacity in the capital Ankara and the southeastern city of Gaziantep, medical associations from those regions told Reuters this week.

The government, which lifted a partial lockdown in June to restart the economy, sounded its own warning on Tuesday when the health minister described the 1,083 new COVID-19 cases as a "severe" rise after a four-day holiday weekend.

In response, authorities rolled out new inspections and enforcement measures, including fines for not wearing masks or maintaining social distancing. New cases had hovered just below 1,000 for more than three weeks, according to official figures.

But Aysegul Ates Tarla, head of the Gaziantep-Kilis Medics' Chamber, said a single hospital in the region logged 200 new COVID-19 cases in one day recently, with the infection rate among health workers especially high.

In Ankara, Ali Karakoc, general secretary of its Medics' Chamber, said roughly 1,000 people test positive in the capital each day and he blamed what he called a premature easing of lockdown measures in June.

"Patients are being made to wait on gurneys for hours or are being sent home. Even those who have pneumonia are sent home because they cannot find a place," he said, adding COVID-dedicated beds were now full.

The health ministry, which divides cases by regions in daily updates, was not immediately available for comment.

According to a document seen by Reuters, Ankara's provincial health authority requested all hospitals set aside 50% of clinic beds and all empty ICU beds for COVID-19, and

asked for delays in all elective surgeries and admissions for internal medicine.

Separately, the authority said 63% of ICU beds in Ankara were occupied while 50% of all hospital beds were occupied. "The pandemic is still under control in our province," it said.

Official figures indicate the new coronavirus has killed 5,765 people and infected 234,934 in Turkey, putting the country 17th globally in a Reuters tally of total cases.

President Tayyip Erdogan's government has lobbied hard for countries to allow tourists to visit Turkey again to shore up the economy, and on Tuesday Germany lifted travel warnings for some Turkish regions.

Health Minister Fahrettin Koca has said the bump in cases is due mainly to individuals ignoring rules.

In July, he posted a photo on Twitter of tightly packed soccer fans watching a game with the question: "Did everyone hold their breath for 90 minutes?"