

Pakistani rights Activist Shot Dead

Islamabad (Dispatches) - Unidentified gunmen have fatally shot a prominent Pakistani rights activist in the southern port city of Karachi after hosting a seminar about human rights abuses in the country's troubled southern province of Balochistan. Karachi-South Deputy Inspector General of Police, Jamil Ahmed, said Sabeen Mahmud was shot dead on Friday evening, as she was returning home with her mother in a car following the end of "Un-silencing Balochistan" organized by her.

Thought for Today

What a difference there is between two kinds of actions- an act whose pleasure passes away but it (ill) consequence remains and the act whose hardship passes away but its reward stays.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

VOL NO: LV 9742 TEHRAN / Est.1959

Sunday, April 26, 2015, Ordibehesht 6, 1394, Rajab 7, 1436

UN Security Council Urges Quick End to Syria Violence



UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos

NEW YORK (United Nations) - The United Nations Security Council has warned against the deterioration of the humanitarian situation in Syria, urging all parties to the conflict to put an immediate end to all forms of violence in the war-stricken country. In a presidential statement adopted on Friday, the 15-member body expressed alarm that the Syrian conflict has turned into the largest humanitarian emergency crisis in the world. The Syrian crisis is threatening

regional peace and security with diverse implications on its neighboring countries and the displacement of millions of people, the statement further read. The inflow of refugees has placed strain on host countries' education systems, said the statement, stressing that additional resources will be required to help the 600,000 children outside the school system. The Security Council also called on donors, international financial institutions and UN agencies

to consider financing instruments in order to effectively meet the "unique needs" of countries impacted by the Syrian conflict. Addressing the body during an open briefing, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Valerie Amos said it is alarming that "people have become numb to figures that should, every day, shock our collective conscience." She added that some 220,000 people have lost their lives during the tragic five-year conflict in Syria while more than one million have been injured. Nearly 7.6 million people have been displaced and four million Syrians have sought refuge in neighboring countries, she noted. Amos pointed to hundreds of thousands of people in a "daily struggle for survival" and said it is imperative to have full and unimpeded humanitarian access to populations in need. She called for full support for the Syrian people, particularly medical and surgical aid. The people of Syria "rightly want more," the UN official said, adding

they want an end to the war that has "destroyed their country and ravaged their lives...Stop the violations of international law, protect civilians and ensure humanitarian access." "The failure to stop the violence has undermined the credibility of this council and eroded confidence in the international community to take its responsibilities seriously," Amos pointed out. She stressed the importance of holding "political dialog" as the only solution to the Syrian crisis and said, "Time is, however, running out on Syria. This is a crisis with potential global repercussions. I ask the [Security] Council to match its scale with an equally bold response." Syria has been grappling with a deadly crisis since March 2011 with Takfiri groups fueling the violence in the Arab country. The Takfiri terrorist groups, with members from several Western countries, control swathes of land in Syria and Iraq, and have been carrying out horrific acts of violence such as public decapitations and crucifixions against all communities such as Shias, Sunnis, Kurds and Christians.

Yemen Ex-President Urges Dialog Among All Warring Sides

TEHRAN (Press TV) - Former Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh has called on all parties involved in the ongoing crisis in the impoverished Arab country to sit down at the negotiating table and work out a solution to the conflict. In a statement read on Yemen satellite television network, Saleh urged all sides, including the Ansarullah fighters of the Houthi movement and the forces loyal to former fugitive President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, "to withdraw from all provinces, especially Aden." He also said all warring sides in Yemen should "return to dialogue," adding that he was ready to reconcile with all Yemeni political factions. "I call on all parties without exception - even political opponents who have been against me since 2011 - to talk and show forgiveness. I will forgive everybody in the interests of the nation," Saleh noted. The 73-year-old former Yemeni leader further proposed that army and security forces come under the control of local authorities in each province.

The statement comes as Saudi military aircraft have carried out fresh airstrikes against Yemen after the Riyadh regime announced the end of the first phase of its unlawful military operation on April 21. On Saturday morning, Saudi warplanes fired missiles into several neighborhoods of the capital, Sana'a. There were no immediate reports of possible casualties as well as the extent of the damage. In the latest Saudi strikes, Yemeni presidential palace war targeted in the southern city of Aden on Saturday. Separately, Saudi fighter jets pounded residential buildings in al-Zaher and Razeh region of Yemen's northwestern province of Sa'ada, but there is still no word on casualties. The airborne attacks came only hours after Saudi aircraft bombarded telecommunications towers, commercial districts as well as a hotel in the city of Haraz, located over 90 kilometers (55 miles) west of Sana'a. Local officials said at least two civilians lost their live and ten others

sustained wounds in the air raids. Saudi Arabia launched its air campaign against Yemen on March 26 - without a United Nations mandate - in a bid to undermine the Houthi Ansarullah movement and to restore power to Hadi, a staunch ally of Riyadh. Hadi stepped down in January and refused to reconsider the decision despite calls by the Houthi Ansarullah movement. However, the Ansarullah movement later said Hadi had lost his legitimacy as president of Yemen after he escaped the capital, Sana'a, to Aden in February. On March 25, the ex-president fled the southern city of Aden, where he had sought to set up a rival power base, to the Saudi capital, Riyadh, after popular committees, backed by Ansarullah revolutionaries, advanced on Aden. The Ansarullah fighters took control of the Yemeni capital in September 2014. The revolutionaries said Hadi's government was incapable of properly running the affairs of the country and containing the growing wave of corruption and terror.

3 Bomb Attacks Hit Iraq-Jordan Border, Leave 12 Dead

BAGHDAD (Dispatches) - Three car bombs have targeted Iraqi security forces at a border crossing with Jordan, leaving a number of people dead and injured. According to Iraq's Interior Ministry spokesman Brig. Gen. Saad Maan, the attacks were carried out at the Trebill border crossing on Saturday. He added that three Iraqi soldiers were killed in the bombings while 10 others sustained injuries. However, Lebanon's al-Mayadeen news outlet put the death toll at 12.

As the only border crossing between Iraq and Jordan, Trebill is located in a remote desert area and leads to the volatile province of Anbar in western Iraq, where Takfiri ISIL terrorists have a strong presence. The attacks came hours after a high-ranking Iraqi army commander and three of his staff officers were killed when ISIL militants attacked government forces in Anbar. Authorities said a bomber rammed an explosive-ridden bulldozer into a convoy of Humvees in the Nadhem al-Taqseem

region on Friday evening. The ISIL terrorists then opened fire on the convoy, killing a commander of the Iraqi 1st Division, Brigadier General Hassan Abbas Toufan, a colonel and two lieutenant colonels. Terrorists with the Takfiri ISIL group have reportedly executed at least 6,000 people in Anbar since late 2013. Media reports quoted official sources in Anbar as saying that the executions have taken place mainly in the city of Fallujah as well as in Ramadi.

38 Killed in Clashes in South Yemen

SANA'A (Dispatches) - Clashes between Yemen's Ansarullah fighters of the Houthi movement and al-Qaeda militants have claimed the lives of 38 people in the south of the country. According to Yemeni officials, seven militants and 22 Ansarullah fighters lost their lives in heavy clashes in the southern town of Daleh early Saturday. Nine more Houthi fighters were also killed in an ambush in the town, the reports added. Meanwhile, a government official announced that a rocket-propelled grenade attack left nine Ansarullah fighters dead in the town of Loder. This is while reports said Saudi warplanes targeted the positions of Houthi fighters in the strategic city of Aden. Saudi aerial assaults also struck al-Anad military airbase north of Aden, which is now under the control of Ansarullah fighters. The oil-rich eastern province of Ma'rib also witnessed fierce fighting between Houthis and al-Qaeda militants. On Friday, Amnesty International called for an immediate investigation into the Saudi aggression against Yemen which has claimed the lives of hundreds of civilians so far. "The month-long campaign of airstrikes carried out by Saudi Arabia... has transformed many parts of Yemen into a dangerous place for civilians," said the deputy director of Amnesty International's Middle East and North Africa Program, Said Boumedouha. In a broadcast late on Tuesday, Saudi government spokesman Brigadier General Ahmed al-Assiri announced the termination of the first phase of the Saudi war on Yemen. However, he added that the Saudi naval blockade on Yemen would stay in place and the Saudi forces would continue targeting the Houthi Ansarullah movement's fighters in Yemen. Saudi Arabia started its military aggression against Yemen on March 26 - without a UN mandate - in a bid to restore power to the country's fugitive former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is a close ally of Riyadh. According to reports, nearly 1,000 people have been killed during the aggression.

Top Taliban Commander Killed in Western Afghanistan

KABUL (Press TV) - Afghan officials say a senior commander of the Taliban militant group has been killed along with three of his comrades during an operation in Afghanistan's western province of Herat. General Mohammad Juma Adil, a commander of border police forces in western Afghanistan, said Mullah Mir Ahmad was killed along with three others when Afghan security forces launched a surprise attack on them in Ghoryan district of the province early on Saturday. Adil added that the death of the Taliban commander would be a major setback for Taliban militants operating inside Herat and adjacent provinces. Meanwhile, at least 15 Taliban militants were killed during clashes with Afghan security forces in the northern Kunduz province. Provincial police chief Abdul Saboor Nusrati said the skirmishes broke out after Taliban terrorists attacked a number of security checkpoints in Ali Abad, Chahar Dara, Imam Sahib and Khan Abad districts of the province. Nusrati added that two Taliban commanders, identified as Qari Rahimuddin and Mullah Tufan, were among the slain militants, noting that two Afghan police officers also lost their lives in the fighting. Additionally, at least five civilians, among them four women, were killed and 11 others wound-

ed when a rocket fired by suspected Taliban militants struck their house in the eastern Laghman province. The provincial governor's office said in a statement on Saturday that the incident took place in the Alingar district of the province on Friday night, and those injured have been shifted to nearby hospitals to receive medical treatment. No individual or militant group

has claimed responsibility for the act of violence. On April 12, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) released a report showing a rise in civilian deaths amid clashes between Taliban militants and Afghan government forces. According to the UNAMA report, over 136 civilians were killed and more than 521 injured in the first quarter of the year.

A Substantial Reward?

FLORIDA (Press TV) - A newly released video shows a US police officer shooting and paralyzing an unarmed African American man in Florida two years ago, after mistaking his cell phone for a gun. The footage from the Sept. 13, 2013 incident shows Dontrell Stephens was riding his bike through a South Florida neighborhood when he noticed he was being followed by a Palm Beach County Sheriff's deputy, Adams Lin. The video, obtained by local station WPTV, released on Thursday as part of a federal suit appears to show Lin shooting Stephens four times just seconds after getting out of his vehicle and confronting him. In the lawsuit, filed in Palm Beach County Circuit Court, attorney Jack Scarola wrote there was no reason to stop Stephens as he was simply talking on his cell phone while riding his bike. "Not only was Stephens' stop without cause, his arrest was secured with excessive force," Scarola wrote. Stephens was trying to comply with the officer's orders to put his arms in the air when he was shot in the left hand, twice in the elbow and once in the chest, according to the lawsuit.

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"The killing of innocent African Americans by the police in the United States cannot be for fun", remarked my friend Jamshed, nicknamed Jimmy because of his naivety. "I'm sure the police commits this inhuman act to secretly receive a substantial reward or maybe some type of promotion", said Jimmy.

Najafi