

TEHRAN (FNA) - The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) launched a global Ramadan campaign to raise funds to support the education of thousands of the Palestinian refugee children in the UNRWA schools in the besieged Gaza Strip.

There are many persons whom constant grants of His Bounties turn them wicked and fit for His punishment and there are many more who have become vain and self-deceptive because the Merciful Allah has not exposed their weaknesses and vices to the world and the people speak highly about them. All this is an opportunity.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Hezbollah, Syrian Troops Gain More Territory in Qalamoun



TEHRAN (FNA) - Syrian troops backed by fighters from Lebanon's Hezbollah Resistance Movement made gains in their military cam-

paigned against ISIL in Qalamoun, recapturing new hilltops from the Takfiri group.

The Syrian forces along with He-

zbollah fighters clashed with the ISIL terrorists in the mountainous region of Qalamoun, North of the Syrian capital, Damascus, and es-

tablishes full control over the areas of Shoabat al-Bakara, Thalaja, Shoabat al-Shakara, Beit Shakour and Taleel Hajj Ali on Tuesday.

Later in the day, the areas of Qurnat Dalil Sema and Shoabat Awad were brought under the control of the Syrian troops after large groups of the terrorists lost their lives following the operations.

The development came on the same day as Hezbollah fighters launched a missile attack on the positions of ISIL on the outskirts of the Lebanese town of Arsal, located about 124 kilometers (77 miles) Northeast of the capital, Beirut.

On May 20, the Syrian army and the Lebanese Hezbollah resistance fighters started their last round of military operations to purge Al-Qalamoun region in Damascus countryside of Takfiri terrorists.

Senior Iraqi officials have blamed Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and some Persian Gulf Arab states for the growing terrorism in their country.

The ISIL has links with Saudi intelligence and is believed to be indirectly supported by the Israeli regime.

Bomb Blast Claims 14 Lives in Iraq

BAGHDAD (Press TV) - At least 14 people have been killed and 21 others injured in a car bomb attack in the eastern Iraqi province of Diyala.

According to Iraq's al-Sumaria satellite TV network, the casualties came after a car bomb exploded near the house of a tribal elder in the al-Neda district east of the provincial capital, Baquba, on Monday night.

The report said that women and children were among the casualties of the deadly attack.

Also on Tuesday, at least seven Iraqis, among them women and children, were killed in mortar attacks in areas north of Fallujah in the country's restive province of Anbar.

Although no group or individual has claimed responsibility for the attacks, the ISIL Takfiri group has on several occasions claimed such terrorist operations across Iraq over

the past few months.

The attacks come on the same day that Iraqi forces backed by volunteer fighters killed as many as 27 militants from the ISIL Takfiri group northeast of Fallujah. The joint forces also managed to destroy a number of missile sites, military vehicles and shelters belonging to the terrorists in the operations.

Meanwhile, local sources in the Iraqi province of Nineveh said that at least 15 members of the Takfiri group were killed in infighting that erupted between ISIL members in the northern city of Mosul.

Iraq is currently witnessing a wave of violence unprecedented in recent years. The overall security situation in the Arab country has also deteriorated over the past months after ISIL terrorists, of whom many are foreign militants, took control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions.

Death Toll from Pakistan Heatwave Exceeds 700: Official

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The death toll from a severe heatwave hitting Pakistan's southern Sindh Province has risen to over 700, with medics struggling to treat patients as a state of emergency is in place in hospitals.

Local media outlets quoting Pakistani officials say the figure has climbed to over 740, adding that the number of fatalities may rise further. Most of the deaths were reported in the port city of Karachi, the country's largest city and its commercial hub, where the temperature reached 45 degrees Celsius (111 Fahrenheit) on the weekend.

Over 3,000 patients have been treated in the Post-Graduate Medical College Hospital, Karachi's largest, doctor Semi Jamila told AFP.

Pakistan's largest charity, Edhi Welfare Organization, said their two morgues in the city had received more than 400 corpses in the last three days, with Edhi spokesman Anwar Kazmi adding, "The mortuaries have reached capacity."

According to the state-run water utility, the power outages have crippled the water supply in Karachi, hampering the pumping of millions of gallons of water to consumers.

On Tuesday, temperatures remained at around 44.5 Celsius in the city, with Pakistan's Meteorological Office forecasting thunderstorms for the evening.

"Due to a low depression developing in the Arabian sea, thunderstorms will likely begin this evening and might continue for the next three days," a Meteorological official said.

Pakistani officials also said seven people had died from the heat in the eastern province of Punjab over the past 24 hours.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has issued special instructions to the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and other relevant organizations to provide urgent assistance to heatwave victims.

The deaths come a month after neighboring India suffered a similar heatwave, which claimed more than 2,000 lives.

Afghan MP Urges Gov't to Hold Parliamentary Elections ASAP

TEHRAN (Tasnim) - A senior Afghan lawmaker called on the country's national unity government to set a date for holding parliamentary elections as soon as possible as the parliament's five-year term ended on June 22.

Speaking to the Tasnim News Agency, Mohammad Abduh, the Head of Afghan Parliament's Judicial Commission, expressed deep

concerns over the possibility of the government's failure to meet its duties regarding holding parliamentary vote.

His comment came after Afghan President Ashraf Ghani on Friday issued a decree extending parliament's mandate until a vote could be held.

"The Afghan parliament has been trying to (pressure) the gov-

ernment to determine the exact date of parliamentary election as soon as possible," Abduh noted.

He noted, however, that according to the country's constitution, the parliament can continue its work until the elections are held.

The Afghan parliament's five-year term was set to expire on June 22, but elections scheduled for April were postponed because

of security fears and disagreement on how to ensure a fair vote after a bitterly disputed presidential election last year.

President Ashraf Ghani's office said the decision to let the existing parliament stay on had been taken in consultation with the judiciary, the legislative and the executive, and a new election date would be announced in a month.

UN Urges Attention to Afghan Refugees' Plight

TEHRAN (Press TV) - The head of the UN refugee agency has urged the world not to "forget" about the sufferings of over a million Afghan refugees living in Pakistan.

"My appeal is for the international community to understand that this is not only the responsibility for Pakistan or Iran or other neighboring countries, it is a collective responsibility," UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Antonio Guterres said during a visit to Afghan refugee camps in Pakistan on Tuesday.

He said ongoing upheavals in the Middle East region have diverted the world's attention away from the plight of Afghan refugees.

"The attention of the international community has been focused dramatically on the

Middle East crisis in Syria, in Iraq, in Yemen," he added.

Guterres also called on world nations to help build the Afghan economy so that Afghan refugees would return home. Many Afghan refugees who have returned are unable to find job and housing due to the ongoing turmoil in their country.

Afghan refugees have come under increasing pressure in Pakistan in recent months.

According to the International Organization for Migration, the number of Afghans crossing the border back to their homeland in the first quarter of this year due to "pressure" from Pakistani officials was nine times higher than in the same period last year.

Pakistan has about 1.5 million Afghan refugees, most of them living in poor conditions



Afghan refugee families arrive at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) repatriation center on the outskirts of the Pakistani city of Peshawar on February 2, 2015.

in camps across the restive militancy-riddled northwestern region.

The US and its Western NATO allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 as part of Washington's so-called war on terror. The US-led war removed Taliban militants from power, but insecurity and violence still

remains in several regions. The militancy and violence has also spilled over into Pakistan.

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Kuwait MP Resigns Over Sectarian Slur

KUWAIT (Press TV) - A Shia Kuwaiti lawmaker has resigned following an incident where another member of parliament insulted his faith during a heated exchange at a parliamentary session.

Faisal al-Duwaisan, from the Shia minority group in parliament, decided to resign after Hamdan al-Azemi, from the Sunni majority, made derogatory remarks about his faith.

"I was deeply hurt... by the contempt and insult against my religious sect by my colleague," Duwaisan stated in his resignation note. He said during a debate on Tuesday Azemi had told him that he should rectify his sect, triggering a confrontation between Azemi and several other Shia lawmakers.

At the end of the parliamentary session, one of the Shia lawmakers, Abdullah al-Tameemi, and Azemi briefly quarreled before other lawmakers restrained them. Duwaisan said he will not take back his resignation unless he either receives an apology from Azemi for the insult against his sect, or disciplinary action against Azemi is taken by the parliament.

Duwaisan is a follower of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. He was originally a Sunni who later converted to the Shia sect. Kuwait has fifty lawmakers in parliament. Seven of them are Shia MPs. In 2013, Kuwait passed a national unity bill to forge stronger bonds between its 1.3 million native population consisting of both Shias and Sunnis. The law prescribes several years in jail for anyone committing illegal acts related to ethnic or religious hatred.