

TURKEY MEDDLING Iraq requests emergency UN meeting

REUTERS, Baghdad
Iraq has requested an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council to discuss the presence of Turkish troops on its territory as a dispute with Ankara escalates. Turkey's parliament voted last week to extend the deployment of an estimated 2,000 troops across northern Iraq by a year to combat "terrorist organisations" - a likely reference to Kurdish rebels as well as Islamic State. Iraq condemned the vote, and Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi warned Turkey risked triggering a regional war. On Wednesday, Ankara and Baghdad each summoned the other's ambassador in protest at remarks from the other camp. "The Iraqi foreign ministry has presented a request for an emergency meeting of the Security Council to discuss the Turkish violation of Iraq's territory and interference in its internal affairs," said a statement on the ministry's website.



People walk around near destroyed houses after Hurricane Matthew passes Jeremie, Haiti, on Wednesday. Inset, People listen to an update on the storm after spending a night on beach chairs in a ballroom at the Melia Hotel in Nassau, Bahamas, yesterday. Hurricane Matthew, the fiercest Caribbean storm in nearly a decade, blasted the Bahamas yesterday as it headed for the southeastern United States after killing at least 140 people, mostly in Haiti, on its deadly northward march.

PHOTO: AFP, REUTERS

GUTERRES' EIGHT PREDECESSORS

- Trygve Lie, Norway (1946-1952)**
A former Norwegian foreign minister, the first UN secretary-general resigned in late 1952 owing to poor relations with the Soviet Union and the United States as war raged in Korea.
- Dag Hammarskjold, Sweden (1953-1961)**
Hammarskjold, a former Swedish foreign minister, headed the UN from 1953 until his death in a mysterious 1961 plane crash during a UN intervention in the Belgian Congo, now known as the Democratic Republic of Congo.
- U Thant, Myanmar (1961-1971)**
The first secretary-general to come from the developing world, the Burmese diplomat U Thant headed the world body during a turbulent period marked by conflicts and crises, notably in Berlin, Vietnam, Israel, India-Pakistan.
- Kurt Waldheim, Austria (1972-1981)**
The former Austrian foreign minister led the world body for almost a decade, and went on to be elected president of Austria in 1986 despite the revelation he had served as an officer in Hitler's army, a disclosure that uproar.
- Javier Perez de Cuellar, Peru (1982-1991)**
Perez de Cuellar led the UN through most of the tempestuous 1980s, receiving the Nobel Peace Prize in 1988 on behalf of UN peacekeeping forces. His mandates were marked by the Iran-Iraq war, the breakup of the Soviet Union and the first Gulf War.
- Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Egypt (1992-1996)**
Egypt's deputy foreign minister was the first secretary-general from Africa. He is the only UN chief to not serve two terms, owing to a veto by the United States.
- Kofi Annan, Ghana (1997-2006)**
A high-level international civil servant before becoming secretary-general in 1997, Annan and the broader UN shared the 2001 Nobel Peace Prize. Annan provoked Washington's wrath when he declared the war in Iraq "illegal."
- Ban Ki-moon, South Korea (2007-2016)**
Ban, a former South Korean foreign minister, took over as UN secretary-general in January 2007. His first five-year mandate was marked by the Arab Spring uprisings, and he won a second mandate in January 2012.

1.5m to flee Mosul assault

Says UN; aid agencies sound alarm bells, say they are 'nowhere near ready' to deal with the exodus

INDEPENDENT.CO.UK
The United Nations and aid agencies say they are "nowhere near" ready to cope with up to 1.5 million people who could be displaced from the Iraqi city of Mosul when an offensive to retake it from IS begins. A US coalition-backed operation to take the city back from IS could start as soon as mid-October, but humanitarian response planning has been woefully underfunded to deal with the scale of the impending manmade crisis, several agencies confirmed to The Independent. "The scope of the required response is something we can't handle," Sandra Black, communications officer for the Iraqi branch of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) said. "It's simply too little, too late." The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), the organisation's humanitarian response branch, is expecting 200,000 people to

flee in the first few days of an attack to retake the city, but says the worst case scenario could be up to 700,000 people. Up to 1.5 million people in the city could be in need of aid. Currently, agencies on the ground have supplies for about 100,000 of the estimated 200,000 people who will initially need help. "It's a race against the clock now," said Lise Grande, the UN's humanitarian coordinator in Iraq.

WAR ON IS IN IRAQ

"Setting up emergency infrastructure in the 13 priority sites the government and Iraqi security forces have identified is our top priority. Levelling and clearing these sites, grading them for drainage and staking out plots is as much as we can probably do in the days in front of us." Mobile health clinics and non-food supplies will have to arrive in a second wave of humanitarian assistance

provided by partners on the ground. While the UN and its partner agencies have been preparing for the humanitarian fallout from an attempt to retake Mosul since February of this year, "it's been very difficult to plan without knowing what's going to happen militarily," Grande said. Efforts have also been hampered by a major funding shortfall. Although 10 million Iraqis currently need some form of humanitarian assistance, only 54 percent of the UN's 2016 Humanitarian Response Plan for Iraq has been funded. More than half of the projects included in the appeal have been forced to close or could not start due to lack of funding, UN OCHA says. An emergency flash appeal for a minimum of \$285m (£224m) for the Mosul response was put out in July, but to date has only managed to raise half of the necessary funds for the most basic of emergency responses.

Will 'serve those that are most vulnerable'

Vows Guterres as UNSC formally backs him as next UN chief

AFP, Lisbon
Antonio Guterres, the man set to become the next United Nations secretary-general, vowed Thursday to serve "the most vulnerable" when he takes up the post. "To describe what I feel at the moment two words are sufficient: gratitude and humility," the former Portuguese prime minister said in an address at the foreign ministry in Lisbon. "Gratitude but also humility. Humility when facing the dramatic problems of today's world and humility that is needed to serve, and especially to serve those that are most vulnerable," he added. "The victims of conflict, of terrorism, the victims of the violation of rights, the victims of poverty and injustices." It was his first public comment since the UN Security Council earlier yesterday unanimously backed Guterres, who was

chief of the UN's refugee agency for a decade, to be the next secretary-general. A vote by the UN General Assembly's 193 member states to endorse him as successor to Ban Ki-moon is expected next week. The unanimous Security Council backing for Guterres for a five-year term from January 1 followed an informal vote on Wednesday during which 13 of the 15 members supported his candidacy and none of the five veto-holding powers blocked him. Guterres, who served as Portugal's prime minister from 1995 to 2002, won the number-one spot in all of the informal votes held by the Security Council. The 67-year-old socialist politician, who will be the first former head of government to lead the United Nations, has pledged to revamp the global diplomatic body to boost its peacemaking efforts and promote human rights.



US accuses Israel of betraying trust

ANNOUNCEMENT OF 300 MORE SETTLER HOMES
AFP, Washington
The White House accused Israel of a betrayal of trust Wednesday, in an unusually sharp rebuke over its plans to build hundreds of new settlement homes deep in the West Bank. Days after President Barack Obama approved a \$38 billion Israeli military aid package and attended former president Shimon Peres's funeral in Jerusalem, the White House railed at the construction of 300 housing units on land "far closer to Jordan than Israel." Warning that the decision jeopardizes the already distant prospect of Middle East peace as well as Israel's own security, press secretary Josh Earnest said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's word had been called into question. "We did receive public assurances from the Israeli government that contradict this announcement," he said. "I guess when we're talking about how good friends treat one another, that's a source of serious concern as well." The sharper-than-normal comments come as the White House weighs a last-ditch effort to get the peace process back on its feet before Obama leaves office in January. In a similarly strong-worded statement, the State Department said building the units "is another step toward cementing a one-state reality of perpetual occupation." Washington has long opposed Israel's policy of building Jewish settlements on land in the West Bank that would be claimed by the Palestinians in any negotiated two-state peace deal.



Demonstrators light candles during a march for the peace in Cali, Colombia, on Wednesday. Colombian President Juan Manuel Santos said peace with the Farc rebels is "close," but his top opponent -- former president Alvaro Uribe -- demanded an overhaul of a "weak" deal rejected by voters in a referendum.

UKIP leader hospitalised after EU 'altercation'

AFP, Strasbourg
The favourite to lead the anti-EU UK Independence Party, Steven Woolfe, was recovering in hospital yesterday after an "altercation" at a meeting with colleagues in the European Parliament. The incident at the parliament in Strasbourg, France, came two days into a leadership contest sparked by UKIP's new leader Diane James's resignation after just 18 days as Farage's successor. Farage said in a statement that "I deeply regret that following an altercation that took place at a meeting of UKIP MEPs this morning that Steven Woolfe subse-



quently collapsed and was taken to hospital." British media reported that Woolfe had been punched by a colleague but there was no immediate confirmation from the party. Woolfe was rushed to hospital and initially said to be in a serious condition after suffering two "epileptic-like fits" and passing out on a raised walkway at the Parliament building, UKIP said. But Woolfe, who was celebrating his 49th birthday on Thursday, later said a scan had shown there was no blood clot and no bleeding on the brain.

Norway's PM caught playing Pokémon Go in parliament

AGENCIES
The Norwegian prime minister has been caught playing Pokémon Go during a debate in Norway's parliament. Erna Solberg was pictured playing the game during a debate in the Storting on Tuesday. It's no secret Solberg is a big fan of Pokémon Go. During an official trip in Slovakia, she took some time out to play the game, telling reporters she was keen to hatch some of her 10km eggs. This isn't even the first time a Norwegian politician has been caught playing the game while in parliament.



Erna Solberg playing Pokémon Go during a debate in the Storting on Tuesday.

The leader of Norway's Liberal party, Trine Skei Grande, was seen playing the game during a meeting on national security back in August, at the height of Pokémon Go mania. And who happened to be speaking while the PM attempted to catch 'em all? None other than Grande herself. Grande seemed amused by the news, tweeting: "She heard what I said, we ladies can do two things at the same time you know." According to Norway's TV2, Solberg said: "I think that Trine will like that I opened the game while she was at the pulpit."

'A turning point for the planet'

Historic Paris climate treaty ratified in race against the clock

AFP, Paris
The historic Paris climate pact dashed across the ratification finish line Wednesday to diplomatic cheers. "A turning point for the planet," said US President Barack Obama. "A defining moment for the global economy," enthused Paul Polman, CEO of Unilever and Chairman of the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. But the cold, hard reality of what is needed to fulfil the Paris Agreement's pledges will soon bite, experts warned. Its accelerated entry into force was driven by many things, including the prospect of Republican Party candidate Donald Trump -- who has described global warming as a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese -- sitting in the White House. The rapid, joint ratification by China and the United States also set an example hard to ignore. But the main impetus for locking in the deal was clearly the growing sense of urgency about the looming threat of

climate change. "Time is absolutely of the essence," said Jennifer Morgan, Executive Director of Greenpeace International. "The question is not 'whether', it is 'how fast'." Almost daily, global warming red flags are popping up. Every month so far this year has set a temperature record, and 2016 is on track to supplant 2015 as the hottest year ever registered. Scientists have recently forecast that average global temperatures -- already one degree Celsius (1.8 degrees Fahrenheit) above the pre-industrial era benchmark -- could sail past 1.5 C (2.7 F) within a decade, and 2.0 C (3.6 F) by mid-century. A maelstrom of superstorms fuelled by rising seas, deadly floods, and drought prompted the world's nations to lower the threshold for dangerous warming in the Paris pact to "well below" 2.0 C. Reaching that target will require a breakneck, wholesale shift across the globe away from fossil fuels towards clean sources of energy.

