VOA NEWS

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From Washington, this is VOA news. I'm Richard Sheehe reporting.

Palestinian protesters clashed with Israeli troops in the West Bank for a third day on Saturday following U.S. President Donald Trump's recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Protesters hurled stones at troops who responded using tear gas and other riot dispersal means.

Mr. Trump's declaration set off a wave of protest across the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and even the wider Arab and Muslim world.

Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced on Saturday that the three-year war aimed at driving Islamic State out of Iraq has been successful and has come to an end.

The militant group is still capable of executing insurgent attacks in Iraq as it did in November when it regained control of a strategic town it held near the border with Syria before relinquishing that again over the following weeks.

Iraq now turns its attention to rebuilding the many areas of the country that were devastated by the fighting in assisting some three million Iraqis who remain displaced.

In the United States, the civil rights icon and congressman, John Lewis, says he has decided not to attend the opening Saturday, today, of a civil rights museum in Mississippi and he went through without threat because President Donald Trump is also there.

Lewis, who is 77 years old, is a civil rights icon. He worked with Martin Luther King Jr. He led the civil rights march on Selma and he spoke at the March on Washington, the famous march on Washington back in 1963. For the past 21 years, he has represented the state Georgia in the House of Representatives. He was scheduled to be one of the main speakers Saturday.

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The U.N. political affairs chief expressed willingness to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula during a visit to North Korea this week. We get more from Reuters' Samantha Vadas amid a rising war of words over the North's missile and nuclear programs.

It was the first U.N. visit to North Korea in years. Political Affairs chief Jeffrey Feltman returning from his four-day trip to Pyongyang on Saturday where state media says he expressed willingness to ease tension on the Korean peninsula. It also said the U.N. envoy acknowledged the negative impact of sanctions on humanitarian aid to the country.

Feltman is the highest-level U.N. official to visit North Korea since 2012.

At least 6 armed separatists and a police official have been killed and several people wounded in the southwestern Cameroon English-speaking town during an attack on a military post. The attack occurred after a special envoy from Nigeria assured Cameroon that they want to work jointly to reduce terrorism on their frontiers. Cameroon has been complaining that armed separatists were using Nigerian territory as a training ground.

We get more details from Moki Edwin Kindzeka.

Cameroon Communication Minister and government spokesman Issa Tchiroma says hundreds of youths armed with guns, machetes and spears attacked Cameroon's police unit in the English-speaking south western town of Mamfe Thursday night.

Moki Edwin Kindzeka, for VOA news, Yaounde, Cameroon.

The U.N. secretary-general, António Guterres, has expressed his outrage about the attack against the U.N. mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo in which at least 15 Tanzanian [police keep] peacekeepers and five Congolese soldiers died and more than 50 were injured.

"This is the worst attack on U.N. peacekeepers in the organization's recent history. It is another indication of the enormous sacrifices made by troop contributing countries in the service of global peace."

Council members met in a closed session on Friday afternoon to discuss the attack after holding a moment of silence in tribute to the victims.

Firefighters continued to battle several wind-fueled wildfires in southern California, including a new rapidly expanding blaze that erupted north of San Diego.

Over the past five days, the fires have destroyed at least 500 structures and forced about 190,000 people to evacuate their homes.

More than 5,700 firefighters accompanied by helicopters are spraying and dumping water and fire retardant to slow the spread of six large wildfires and other smaller blazes that have erupted since Monday.

The fires stoked by relentless westward Santa Ana winds are torching areas along the Pacific coast from San Diego to Santa Barbara County about 370 kilometers.

I'm Richard Sheehe in Washington.

That's the latest world news from VOA.