

US Scrambled Jets to Protect Its Advisers in Syria: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - The US-led coalition scrambled fighters to protect US advisers working with Kurdish forces after Syrian regime jets bombed the area, in the latest escalation of Syria's bloody conflict, the Pentagon said.

The air strikes took place on Thursday, conducted by two Syrian SU-24 attack planes targeting Kurdish forces undergoing training with US special operations advisers around the northeastern city of Hasakeh, Pentagon spokesman Captain Jeff Davis said.

The coalition scrambled its own jets to the area in a bid to intercept the Syrian jets, but the regime planes had left by the time they arrived.

"This was done as a measure to protect coalition forces," Davis said.

"We will ensure their safety and the



Syrian regime would be well-advised not to do things that place them at risk... We view instances that place the coalition at risk with utmost seriousness and we do have the inherent right of self-defense."

But the warning appeared to fall on deaf ears. Two Syrian regime warplanes attempted to fly to the area again on Friday, but were met by coalition aircraft, a US defense official said in a statement. "The presence of the coalition aircraft encouraged the Syrian aircraft to depart the airspace without further incident," he said. "No weapons were fired by the coalition fighters."

As soon as Thursday's strike began, ground forces tried to hail pilots via radio - to no avail.

US forces then ... (More on P4)...(17)

Trump Launches First TV Ad of General Election

WASHINGTON - Amid his latest campaign shake-up, Donald Trump released his first television ad of the general election on Friday and, like much of his presidential campaign, the commercial focused on immigration.

Until Friday, the GOP nominee had yet to release a television ad, perplexing some observers as he slipped in the polls to Democratic rival Hillary Clinton, whose campaign has spent millions on ads. (Clinton's team also released a new ad earlier in the day.) The 30-second

Trump spot, which the campaign said would air in Ohio, Florida, North Carolina and Pennsylvania for the next 10 days, is titled "Two Americas: Immigration" and aims to offer a stark contrast between Trump's America and what the country would be like with Hillary Clinton as president.

"The system stays rigged against Americans," a narrator warns over muted images of crowded refugee camps, and men being both arrested by Border Patrol agents and strolling ... (More on P4)...(18)

Donald Trump's Support for Forced Deportation is 'To Be Determined'

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump's support of forced deportation for undocumented immigrants is now unclear, his campaign manager said on Sunday.

"To be determined," Kellyanne Conway, the Republican nominee's new campaign manager, told CNN's Dana Bash on "State of the Union" after repeated questioning over Trump's position on the matter.

A central point of Trump's presidential campaign has been support for forced de-

portation of undocumented immigrants and blocking immigrants from entering the U.S. On Saturday, however, Trump signaled that he is interested in finding a "humane and efficient" way to deal with undocumented immigrants during a meeting with his Hispanic advisory council, BuzzFeed reported.

Conway disputed reports of Trump appearing to back off his hardline position on immigration.

"So what Donald Trump said yesterday in that meet-



ing ... varied little from what he has said publicly," she told Bash. "What he support is to make sure we enforce the law, that we are respectful of those Americans who are looking for jobs and that we are fair and humane to those who live among us." (CNN)

Iraq Executes 36 Prisoners for Mass Killing of Soldiers

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi Ministry of Justice on Sunday said it executed 36 convicted prisoners over charges of killing about 1,700 soldiers when Islamic State (IS) militants seized the city of Tikrit in June 2014, an Iraqi official television reported.

"The ministry of justice executed 36 prisoners in Nasriyah prison after they were found guilty in the crime of Speicher," state-run Iraqiya channel said, referring to the city

of Nasriyah, the capital of Iraq's southern province of Dhi Qar.

In June 2014, armed Sunni insurgents, spearheaded by the IS group, an al-Qaida offshoot, launched a surprise offensive on Iraqi security forces and captured a large part of the country's northern and western territories after government troops abandoned their posts and military equipment. Reports said that among the dozens of thousands ... (More on P4)...(19)

Maverick Montebourg to Run for French Presidency

PARIS - Former industry minister Arnaud Montebourg has said he will run in France's presidential election after "wasted" years under Francois Hollande, the latest candidate on the left to challenge the government's pro-business line.

Ousted two years ago over his increasingly vocal criticism of Hollande, Montebourg is joining an already crowded field jostling to replace the unpopular Socialist president in May 2017.

"I shouldn't be here pro-



posing an alternative because that's what we promised four years ago," Montebourg told a rally of supporters in Burgundy on Sunday.

Unlike other rebel Socialist candidates, Montebourg, who came third in the 2012 primary winning some 17 percent of the vote, did not say whether he would take part in the party's primaries or run as an independent left-wing candidate.

Urging Hollande not to run again, Montebourg said his project would include measures to end austerity while raising expenditure, reverse tax increases of the last five years, fight globalisation and restructure the ... (More on P4)...(20)

Tanzania to Revoke Citizenship of Disobedient Refugees: PM

DAR ES SALAAM - Tanzanian Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa said on Sunday the government will not hesitate revoking citizenship granted to Burundian refugees who were disobedient.

"The government will revoke citizenship to given to Burundian refugees who are disobedient. They will also be repatriated to their respective country of origin," Majaliwa told naturalized Burundian refugees living at Katumba in Katavi region.

"A good number of refugees who were granted citizenship are abusing the offer by bringing in their relatives. This is unacceptable," said the prime minister who was on a visit to the region.

Majaliwa directed the Katavi regional defence and security committee to conduct a special inspection in Katumba and Mishamo refugee camps in order to establish whether they were refugees who had been brought in by their relatives who have secured citizenship. He said the ... (More on P4)...(22)

IS Militants Execute 40 People in Mosul

MOSUL - The Islamic State (IS) militants executed 40 people in the group's last major stronghold of Mosul on Sunday, a security source said.

The victims were executed over charges of conspiring against the group's rule in Mosul, the capital of Nineveh province, or helping people to flee the city, or being former Iraqi security members, according to Mohammed al-Baiyati, head of the security committee of Nineveh's provincial council.

"The IS terrorist group delivered the bodies of 40 men and a list of their



names to the morgue of the main hospital in Mosul," said Baiyati. He said all the bodies were shot in the head.

The executions came as the Iraqi army and the Kurd-

ish security forces, known as Peshmerga, are now fighting to seize back positions around Mosul amid a major offensive to liberate the whole city. Mosul, the ... (More on P4)...(21)

Calls for Merkel to Introduce Facial Recognition in Train Stations After Terror Attacks

BERLIN - Leading figures are calling for Chancellor Angela Merkel to introduce facial recognition software to spot potential threats in transport hubs - including airports and train stations.

In an interview Interior Minister Thomas de Maiziere said politicians want to see the introduction of the new measures as soon as possible.

He said: "I would like to use this kind of facial recognition technology in video cameras at airports and train stations. "Then, if a suspect appears and is recognised, it will show up in the system."

Mr De Maiziere said a ban on rucksacks at large-scale public gatherings will help, adding that it would be up to on-site security officials to take that decision.

He said: "We will have to get used to increased security measures, such as longer queues, stricter checks or personal entry cards."

"This is tedious, uncomfortable and costs time but I don't think it's a limitation of personal freedom."

Security threats are a growing concern at local and national levels after sustained coordinated ... (More on P4)...(23)

Suicide Bomber in Turkish Wedding Attack was 12-14 Years Old: Erdogan



ANKARA - The suicide bomber who carried out a deadly terror attack at a wedding in the southern Turkish city of Gaziantep on Saturday night is aged 12 to 14, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said on Sunday.

The brutal terror attack was carried out by a teenager, and initial findings showed it was perpetrated by the Islamic State (IS) group, Erdogan

told reporters in Istanbul. He stressed that security forces have been conducting counter-terror operations against the IS, and are intensifying their fight against terrorists in Gaziantep province.

At least 51 people were killed in the attack, and 69 others injured, including 17 in critical condition, Erdogan confirmed. (Xinhua)

Putin Offers Condolences over Wedding Blast in Turkey

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday offered condolences to his Turkish counterpart, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, over the deadly blast that hit an outdoor wedding celebration in southeastern Turkey and killed at least 50 people.

Condemning the attack for its cruelty and disrespect for human morality,

Nieghbor News

Iran Releases Images of New Missile Defence System

TEHRAN - Iran released images of its first domestically built long-range missile defence system on Sunday, a project started when the country was under international sanctions.

Images on multiple state news agencies showed President Hassan Rouhani and Minister of Defence Hossein Dehghan standing in front of the new Bavar 373 missile defence system.

The system was designed to intercept cruise missiles, drones, combat aircraft and ballistic missiles, according to earlier statements by Dehghan. The project was launched as an alternative to the Russian S-300 system, the delivery of which was suspended in 2010 due to sanctions imposed over Iran's nuclear programme.

"We did not intend to make an Iranian version of the S-300 - we wanted to build an Iranian system, and we built it," Dehghan told the IRNA news agency

over the weekend. In an earlier speech at Friday prayers, he said: "Our missile power is at such a level that we are able to destroy all our targets at any operational range." Rouhani said in a televised speech on Sunday that Iran's military budget had more than doubled compared with last year.

"If we are able to discuss with world powers around the negotiating table, it is because of our national strength, because of our national unity," he said.

Rouhani also unveiled the first Iranian-made turbo-jet engine on Sunday, saying it was capable of flight at 50,000 feet.

"The Islamic republic is one of eight countries in the world who have mastered the technology to build these engines," the president said.

Dehghan added that Iran was now looking to develop seaborne cruise missiles capable of supersonic speed. (AFP)

Turkmenistan Holds Elections to Parliament, Local Authorities

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan hold elections of members for the parliament and local authorities - velayat (regional), etrap (district) and halk maslahaty (People's Council)

on August 21, 2016, the country's Central Commission for Elections and Referenda said in a message. The voting in the election in Turkmenistan lasted till 19:00. (Agencies)

China Pledges \$10 Mln Aid to South Sudan

JUBA - China has pledged a 10 million U.S. dollars aid to help South Sudan respond to humanitarian needs.

Chinese Ambassador to South Sudan Ma Qiang told Xinhua late Saturday the funds will be used to purchase food and non-food items in an effort to immediately rescue lives of thousands in dire humanitarian condition.

Ma said people of South Sudan are at critical humanitarian assistance aggravated by the recent fighting that has forced nearly 1 million people to flee their country to seek refuge in the neighboring countries.

"I am going to meet the minister of humanitarian affairs to discuss other items that are urgently needed so that we can immediately provide to rescue those in dire

need of assistance," Ma told Xinhua in Juba.

The current humanitarian situation was prompted by renewed fighting between forces loyal to President Salva Kiir and rebel leader Riek Machar and the mid December 2013 civil strife.

Ma said the immediate humanitarian assistance needed includes rice, shelters and medical drugs for maternal diseases and cholera, as well as other valuable medical equipment.

He stressed that at this critical time China is still committed to providing humanitarian assistance to those who are in need.

In 2016, humanitarian needs in South Sudan have continued to grow as a result of violence, displacement, hunger and disease. (Xinhua)

Discrimination Against Veiled Women in Tajikistan, 643 Cases Reported this Year

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan, where wearing hijab is a crime, 685 crimes have been reported first seven months of this year, and of this number 643 cases have been women wearing hijab.

Chief of the Interior Ministry's office in Khujand, the capital of Sughd province, Colonel Emin Jalilov has said that 685 crimes have been reported in the city over the first seven months of this year.

Of this number, 643 women wearing hijab are now registered with Interior Ministry's office in Khujand; 513 of them are residents of the city of Khujand.

Ex-Soviet Tajikistan regularly monitors and cracks down on any symbol that is deemed to be in opposition to the state. In February footage of police arresting two hijab-sporting women quickly gathered traction on the Russian social network Odnoklassniki and YouTube, angering ordinary Tajiks in the majority Muslim country.

Russian citizen Oqil Sharifov was charged with "provocation of enmity based on nationalism, regionalism, and religion" and sentenced on May 26 to a year in prison. (AhlulBayt News Agency)