

# US Air Strike Kills 'Daesh Number Two': White House

WASHINGTON - The National Security Council identified the slain militant as Fadhil Ahmad al-Hayali, also known as Haji Mutaz, and said he was Daesh leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi's senior deputy.

This is not the first time that US officials have announced Hayali's death. In December, US defense officials, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity, said he was one of several senior figures killed in coalition strikes, giving another of his pseudonyms, Abu Muslim al-Turkmani. But US forces now say



they were able to kill him, along with an Daesh "media operative" known as Abu Abdullah,

on August 18 in a strike on a vehicle near the city of Mosul.

The White House de-

scribed Hayali as a member of the Daesh's ruling council, and "a primary coordinator for moving

large amounts of weapons, explosives, vehicles and people between Iraq and Syria".

"He supported Daesh operations in both countries and was in charge of Daesh operations in Iraq, where he was instrumental in planning operations over the past two years, including the Daesh offensive in Mosul in June 2014," it said. Like many senior Iraqi jihadists, before joining the Daesh group, Hayali had been a member of Al-Qaeda's Iraqi faction. He was reportedly a former Iraqi officer from the era of Saddam Hussein. Daesh militants launched a devastating offensive in Iraq in June 2014. (AFP)

## Neighbour News

### Chinese President Receives IAAF Golden Order of Merit

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping received the IAAF Golden Order of Merit from IAAF President Lamine Diack on Saturday.

Xi met with the world athletics head Saturday afternoon, roughly an hour before he formally opened the 15th IAAF World Championships. During the meeting at the Bird's Nest National Stadium, the venue for the world championships, Xi praised the IAAF's efforts to promote athletics around the globe and to enhance the friendship between different peoples. Xi noted that China hopes to contribute to world athletics by host-

ing the biennial world championships, saying the country will continue to support the world athletics movement and to make greater contribution in the future.

Diack, who will step from from the IAAF presidency after the Beijing worlds, spoke highly of China's contribution to the overall development of world sports, athletics in particular, and expressed the IAAF's wish to strengthen cooperation with China.

The world championships will run through Aug. 30. More than 1,900 athletes from 207 countries and regions are competing in 47 disciplines. (Xinhua)

### Iran Must Boost Defense Power: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the Islamic Republic must enhance its defense power, stressing that Iran has no intention of invading any country.

"We should strengthen our defense capability, so that the [nuclear] agreement [reached with the P5+1 group] and stability will remain sustainable in this country and our cordial ties with the region and the world will remain amicable and lasting," Rouhani said during a ceremony in Tehran on Saturday marking National Defense Industry Day.

He added that Iran's defense industries are there to defend the country's territory, interests and people, saying Tehran has

never sought to launch aggression against other countries.

Rouhani pursues a deterrent and defensive strategy and its policy is based on détente, convergence and confidence-building with other countries, he said.

He added that such a policy does not contradict Iran's "defense power and military industry."

Deterrent power cannot be achieved only through defense and military industries, Rouhani said, adding the country needs cultural, scientific, political and economic might as well to realize national strength.

"If a country lacks strength, independence and stability, it cannot seek real peace," the Iranian president reiterated. (PressTV)

### Tajikistan-Netherlands Business Forum to Be Held in Dushanbe

AVESTA - The Tajikistan-Netherlands business forum will take place here on Oct. 1, Tajikistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) said Friday. The joint business forum will be held during the visit of entrepreneurs of Netherlands trade mission to Tajikistan. The event is organized by the Tajikistan's CCI and the Netherlands embassy in Almaty, Kazakhstan, with the support of the Tajik government.

The main objective of the forum is to develop and further strengthen bilateral economic and trade relations between the Netherlands and Tajikistan in the fields of agriculture, dairy farming, poultry farming, vegetable growing, seed growing, agricultural products processing (greenhouses), to supply the latest technologies and

APC equipment to Tajikistan, to attract foreign investment in agriculture, to find potential partners, to conclude business contracts and to create joint ventures and new jobs.

The forum will be attended by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and other international organizations. Considering economic cooperation, the Netherlands is a priority country for Tajikistan.

The main direction of further bilateral cooperation between the two countries could be the attraction of foreign investment in Tajikistan, the development of agricultural sphere and the establishment of Tajikistan - Netherlands Business Council. (Agencies)

### Sharif Directs Punjab Govt. to Ensure Implementation of Nap

LAHORE - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Saturday directed the Punjab government to adhere to the National Action Plan (NAP) and ensure its implementation, said a report published on Radio Pakistan. While chairing a meeting in Raiwind - which was attended by Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif and Inspector General Punjab Police among others, - the premier was also briefed in detail on the measures taken in order to implement the NAP in Punjab. Know more: Over 10,000 ar-

rested as National Action Plan against terror continues Earlier on Friday, PM Nawaz chaired another meeting to review the internal security situation in the country and implementation of the NAP. The meeting was held at Prime Minister House and attended by Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif, Federal Minister for Finance Senator Ishaq Dar, Federal Minister for Interior Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, Chief Minister Punjab Shahbaz Sharif, Advisor on National Security and ... (More on P4)... (21)

### Egypt Court Sentences MB Supreme Guide to Life in Jail over 2013 Violence

PORT SAID - An Egyptian court sentenced Saturday Muslim Brotherhood supreme guide Mohammed Badie and other prominent figures of the outlawed group to life in prison over charges of committing and inciting violence in 2013.

Badie and 94 others, including 76 in absentia, were convicted with killing five people and attempted murder of 70 others in the violent acts that took place at Al-Arab police station in the Canal city of Port Said. They all received life sentences, which is 25 years in jail in Egypt.

The court also sentenced 28 others to 10 years in prison and acquitted 68

others in the same case. Muslim Brotherhood leaders Mohamed el Beltagy and Safwat Hegazi were among those who sentenced to life.

The violence erupted after Islamist Egyptian president Mohammed Morsi was ousted by the military in July 2013 after mass protests against his one-year rule.

Egyptian authorities designated the Brotherhood as a terrorist organization in 2013.

A number of its leaders, including Badie, were sentenced to death or long terms in prison. However, the sentences have not been carried out and can be appealed. (Xinhua)

### China's Silk Road Initiative a Partnership Project, Not Competitor: Russian Pm

MOSCOW - The China-proposed Silk Road Economic Belt initiative is not a competitor, but a partnership project for Russia, the country's Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev said Saturday.

"The project of the Silk Road belt is in no way a competitor for us, to some extent, it is a partnership project, which we have agreed with our Chinese counterparts," Medvedev was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti.

Both sides have agreed to combine the initiative with the Russia-led Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) project, he added, while expressing hope that the alignment would be beneficial for every member state of the EEU, which grouped Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus, Kyrgyzstan and Armenia. Earlier in the day, Medvedev arrived on the

disputed Kuril Islands for a working visit.

The Silk Road Economic Belt, together with the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road, commonly known as the "Belt and Road" initiatives, were proposed by Xi in 2013. The initiatives bring together countries in Asia, Europe and even Africa via overland and maritime networks, with the purpose of boosting infrastructure building, financial cooperation and cultural exchanges in those regions. The network passes through more than 60 countries and regions, with a total population of 4.4 billion.

During his visit to Moscow in May, Xi and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin signed a joint statement on the alignment of each side's development initiatives. (Xinhua)

### North, South Korea Officials Meet at DMZ in Bid to Ease Tension

SEOUL - Top aides to the leaders of North and South Korea held talks at the Panmunjom truce village straddling their border late on Saturday, raising hopes for an end to a standoff that put the rivals on the brink of armed conflict.

The meeting at the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) village, known for its sky-blue huts and grim-faced soldiers, began soon after the deadline for North Korea's previously set ultimatum demanding that the South halt its loudspeaker propaganda broadcasts along the border or face



military action. That deadline passed without any reported incidents.

The negotiations continued after roughly three hours, according to

the South's Unification Ministry.

An exchange of artillery fire on Thursday prompted calls for calm from the United Nations, the United

States and the North's lone major ally, China. South Korea's military remained on high alert despite the announced talks, a defense official said. (Reuters)

### Military Pressure on Ukraine will Last Decades: President

KIEV - Military pressure on Ukraine from Russia and the separatists that Moscow supports is likely to last decades and future generations will have to undergo military training, President Petro Poroshenko said on Saturday. Poroshenko made one of his gloomiest predictions on prospects for peace in his country days before he meets German

and French leaders in Berlin for a summit he called to urge them to put pressure on Russia to comply with a six-month-old peace plan strained by ceasefire violations and shelling. Poroshenko, speaking at a military rally in Kharkiv region at which he handed over new weapons and equipment to the army, praised Ukrainian forces for com-



bating what he called a "Russian offensive" in the separatist conflict

which erupted in the eastern Donbass region in April 2014. (Reuters)

### U.S. Pledges Commitment to S. Korea's Defense

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon said Saturday that its military leader pledged "unwavering commitment" of the United States to South Korea's defense.

According to a Pentagon statement issued on Saturday, U.S. Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Army Gen. Martin E. Dempsey, called his South Korean counterpart Adm. Choi Yoon-Hee late Friday night and reiterated the strength of the U.S.-South Korea alliance. The two mili-

tary chiefs concurred they would watch the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's (DPRK) actions closely in the coming days and would ensure that the United States and South Korea continue to work closely with each other to deter the DPRK's "provocations and defuse tensions." The DPRK and South Korea started high-level urgent contact earlier Saturday in the truce village of Panmunjom to discuss the prevailing tense situa-



tion on the peninsula. The meeting is the highest-level inter-Korean contact since President Park took office in February 2013. It came

amid escalated tensions caused by cross-border exchange of fire on Thursday over South Korea's propa... (More on P4)... (20)

### France Train Gunman Identified as Known Islamist Militant

PARIS/MADRID - A gunman overpowered by passengers on a train in France is known to European authorities as a suspected Islamist militant if the identity he has given is correct, France's interior minister said on Saturday.

Two people were wounded in the struggle to subdue the Kalashnikov-toting attacker aboard the high-speed train from Amsterdam to Paris on Friday. Two U.S. servicemen, one of whom suffered knife wounds, were among the passengers



who stopped the gunman.

Cazeneuve said the man's identity was not confirmed, but if he was telling the truth "he is a 26-year-old man of Moroccan

nationality identified by the Spanish authorities to French intelligence services in February 2014 because of his connections to the radical Islamist movement". (Reuters)

### Two Dozen Suspected Illegal Immigrants Injured in Traffic Accident in Austria

VIENNA - A van transporting suspected illegal immigrants in a purported case of human smuggling overturned Friday in northeastern Austria, leaving at least 24 people injured, local media reported Saturday.

The incident occurred Friday morning on a motorway in the state of Lower Austria, when one of the tires of the van with at least 32 people on board allegedly burst, causing the vehicle to skid, crash into a railing and fall onto its side.

Many of the suspected



illegal immigrants made their way out onto the motorway following the incident, while the smuggler fled the scene of the incident. Three people were seri-

ously injured and the police did not rule out the possibility that some of the suspected illegal immigrants who had fled were also injured. (Xinhua)