Page 5 International

US Idea to Lay Blame in Syria Chlorine Attacks Gets Support

UNITED NATIONS - A "large majority" of U.N. Security Council members support a U.S. effort to create a way to attribute blame for chlorine attacks in Syria and are ready to move quickly in the next few days, the council president said Thursday. But Syria ally Russia worries whether it will be objective, with the Russian ambassador saying, "They've done their attribution of blame already." Lithuanian Ambassador Raimonda Murmokaite told reporters after closeddoor consultations that the U.S. needs to work out the outstanding doubts and questions and all 15



members need to see the plan in writing. The council met as Syr-

ian activists and a doctor reported new suspected

ble to follow up on a reso-

one has a mandate to assign blame. Murmokaite said there has been an increase in alleged attacks since then.

Few details about the U.S. plan emerged Thursday. A council diplomat on Wednesday said the proposed mechanism likely would answer to the council and allow experts access to look into attacks. The diplomat spoke on condition of anonymity without authorization to speak publicly.

A key question now is Russia, which has used its veto power as a permanent council member to...

have told Reuters the

would help Gulf allies

create a region-wide de-

fense system to guard

against Iranian missiles

and could be accompa-

nied by enhanced secu-

rity commitments, new

arms sales and more

joint military exercises.

While in Saudi Arabia

summit

Washington

Ambassador Domingo (More on P4)...(22) Lucenario and the wives of the ambassadors of Malaysia and Indonesia

> Twitter posts. The Pakistani Taliban claimed they shot down

the aircraft but witnesses on the ground, and in other helicopters on the trip, reported nothing to

Neighbour News

Pakistan Helicopter

Crash Kills Norwegian, Philippine Ambassadors

ISLAMABAD - A Paki-

stan military helicopter

carrying diplomats to inspect a tourism project

crashed on Friday killing

seven people, including

the ambassadors of Nor-

way and the Philippines

and the wives of the Ma-

laysian and Indonesian

Pakistani Prime Minister

Nawaz Sharif was trave-

ling to the mountainous

northern region of Gilgit

on a separate aircraft

when the accident hap-

pened. He returned to

Islamabad, his office said.

Norwegian Ambassador

Leif Larsen, Philippine

were killed, along with

two pilots and a crew

member, military spokes-

man Asim Bajwa said in

ambassadors.

indicate any firing. Malaysian state media identified the wife of the ambassador as Habibah Mahmud, while Indonesia said its ambassador Burhan Muhammad was injured and his wife, Heri Listyawati Burhan Mu-

hammad, was killed. Bajwa said the ambassadors of Poland and the Netherlands were among the injured. The ambassadors of South Africa, Lebanon and Romania were also on board, according to a flight list obtained by Reuters. The Romanian Foreign Ministry said its ambassador was alive and uninjured.

"The bodies are so badly torched that they can't be identified," said Sibtain Ahmed, the home secretary of Gilgit-Baltistan. (Reuters)

China Search and Rescue Team Returns from Nepal

BEIJING - A 62-member China International Search & Rescue Team landed in Beijing on Friday afternoon after a 13-day mission in Nepal in which they were the first foreign team to save a survivor in the quake field.

All the team's members, as well as six sniffer dogs, have returned safely, said team leader Huo Shufeng at Beijing Capital International Airport.

The team arrived in Nepal on the afternoon of April 26, a day after an 8.1-magnitude earthquake jolted the Himalayan country.

During their stay in Nepal, they rescued two survivors from the rub430 buildings, Huo said.

"The rescue of the second survivor was the most difficult since our team was established. It took us 34 hours," said Tao Zongpeng, a senior member of the team. China International

Search & Rescue Team, founded in 2001, is qualified by International Search and Rescue Advisory Group External Classification to be a heavy urban search and rescue team. This was its 10th international mission.

The team has never allocated so many personnel in an international mission nor left its base at such short notice before, according ble and cleared about to Huo. (Xinhua)

Shamkhani further not-

ed that "the alliance" of

Iran Not to be Deceived by West's Regional Game: Shamkhani

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says the Islamic Republic will not be deceived by the West's plot and its "regional rivalry game." "The issue of regional rivalry is a colonial thought...which is not accepted by the logic of Islam," Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani (SNSC) said on Friday. He added that the destruction of economic infrastructure in Yemen and the prevention of aid delivery to the war-wracked country run counter to Islamic ethics. The Muslim world would never tolerate "the unwise decisions" by Saudi Arabia's USbacked ruling family and will hold them to account over their "crimes," the SNSC secretary said.

America and its partners with the al-Qaeda terrorist group in Yemen to counter "the popular will" of the country will remain as a "stain" in history. Saudi Arabia started its military aggression against Yemen on March 26 - without a UN mandate - in a bid to undermine the Houthi Ansarullah movement and to restore power to the country's fugitive former president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who is a staunch ally of Riyadh. The Saudis claim the airstrikes only target military positions. However, reports show civilians and infrastructure in civilian areas are being attacked. (Agencies)

Military Parade Held in **Dushanbe on the Occasion** of the Great Victory Day

DUSHANBE - A military parade took place in Dushanbe on May 8 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the victory over Nazi Germany in World War II (WWII). In all, more than 2,000 servicemen, including soldiers and officers of the Ministry of Defense, the Border Troops, the National Guard and the Committee on Emergency Situations and Civil Defense (CES), were on the military parade that was held in Dushanbe's Victory Park. Servicemen

base deployed in Tajikistan also participate in the military parade in Dushanbe. Defense Minister, Lieutenant-General, Sherali Mirzo, and Deputy Defense Minister, Lieutenant-General Bakhtiyor Ruzminshoyev, commanded the parade. Victory Day marks the end of World War II in Europe, specifically the capitulation of Nazi forces to the Allies (the United Kingdom, Soviet Union, France, the United...(More on P4)...(26)

of the Russian military

Ukraine's Poroshenko Slams 'Appeasement' of Moscow

Poland GDANSK, Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko on Thursday criticised what he termed a policy of appeasement towards Russia in the context of the separatist conflict in Ukraine's east. "Crimes are committed today in the 21st century amid the aggression against my country Ukraine, despite the cruelest lessons of the past," Poroshenko said in the Polish port city of Gdansk. He was speaking at ceremonies marking the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II that were attended by

N. Korea

Threatens

Strikes against

SEOUL - North Korea

warned Friday that it

was prepared to fire on

sight without warning at

South Korean naval ves-

sels it accused of violat-

ing their disputed Yellow

The Korean People's

Army (KPA) said 17

South Korean high-speed

patrol boats had crossed

into the North's territo-

rial waters in the first

week of May "under the

pretext" of intercepting

Issuing what it called

an "emergency special

warning", the KPA said

the North Korean mili-

tary would henceforth

"make a sighting strike

without any prior warn-

ing" on any South Kore-

an naval ship deemed to

have entered its waters.

In the event of any armed

response, the KPA will

"successively deal strong

second, third and more

retaliatory strikes at

them," according to a

statement carried by the

North's official KCNA

news agency. The South

Korean defence ministry

flatly denied the charges

of incursions by its ves-

sels, and accused the

North of seeking to stir

In a message to the KPA

will bitterly repent".

1950-53 Korean War.

NLL. (AFP)

ministry

up tensions.

command,

Chinese fishing boats.

Sea border.

leaders including UN Secretary-General Ki-moon and EU President Donald Tusk. "Astonishingly, we see attempts to appease the attackers," he continued, without specifying the events or people responsible for the policy. Poroshenko also slammed Russia's upcoming May 9 World War II victory parade in Moscow as a parade of cynicism". "The European Union is facing the most difficult challenge in its history," Poroshenko said. "A test of its unity, its solidarity,...(More on P4)...(25)

WASHINGTON/IS-

TANBUL - The United

States has begun a long-

awaited program to

train Syrian fighters to

go into combat against

Islamic State (IS), the

Pentagon said on Thurs-

day, deepening Ameri-

ca's role in Syria's civil

war after eight months

of airstrikes against the

Sunni militants. Defense

Secretary Ash Carter

said the military was

starting small, train-

ing a first group of just

90 Syrians, who would

be paid a stipend and

could expect some still-

undefined support once

they return to the bat-

tlefield. A spokesman

for the government of

Jordan said the train-

ing began there several

days ago and U.S. and

attacks that left several

dozens of people suffering from asphyxiation. The council has been una-

lution it passed last month that threatened action for

Kerry Meets with Gulf Ministers on Iran, Yemen



The Paris meeting will lay the groundwork for a summit next week in Washington and Camp David between U.S.

Middle Eastern sources

told Reuters the train-

ing would soon start at

another site in Turkey.

Syrian rebels and mem-

bers of the U.S. Congress

are deeply skeptical,

with some lawmak-

ers saying the program

is too small and slow.

The Pentagon forecasts

it will take three years

to train and arm more

than 15,000 opposition

forces. Carter acknowl-

edged that it would be

a few months before

even the first group of

90 fighters would be de-

ployed and he described

the effort as advancing

with tremendous cau-

tion, in part to limit the

risks that U.S.-trained

fighters would commit

human rights violations.

(Reuters)

U.S. Military Starts

Training Syrian Fighters

to Combat IS



ma and the six-nation GCC. Obama faces a

President Barack Oba- to allay Gulf Arab fears over a nuclear deal with

with Ukraine's Antonov

on Thursday Kerry said

the goal of talks was to "see how we can provide greater assurance to people about the road ahead, as well as build

Tehran which is due by challenge June 30. U.S. officials an...(More on P4)...(23) Saudi Arabia to Build Planes

DUBAI - Saudi Arabia and Ukraine's Antonov aircraft company are to build transport planes for military and civilian use in a deal strengthening the kingdom's drive to develop a domestic military industry. The state-backed (KACST) said it had driven plane can carry (More on P4)...(24)

signed an agreement with Antonov to produce the AN-32 aircraft. Antonov said in a separate statement a modernized version of the AN-32 would be designed jointly and then produced in Saudi Arabia, which would own ernize its current fleet King Abdulaziz City for the blueprints for the which has logistical Science and Technology model. The propeller- work such as moving..

paratroopers or cargo and play civilian roles, according to Antonov's website. "The deal will fulfill the needs of the kingdom for small cargo aircraft in both the military and civilian sector, and will mod-

'Dozens Killed' in IS Assault on East Syria City ttles were beheaded by IS con

BEIRUT - Fierce battles between Syrian regime forces and the Islamic State jihadist group in eastern Syria have left 34 fighters dead in 24 hours, a monitor said Friday. The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said 19 pro-government forces and 15 IS extremists had been killed since clashes began late Wednesday in the city of Deir Ezzor and around its nearby military airport. The head of aerial defence at the airport -- one of the few areas left in regime hands in Deir Ezzor province -- was killed in the fighting, the Observatory said. Four government soldiers

Thursday as the jihadists seized a key checkpoint in the city near the air base. "An IS suicide bomber detonated himself by the checkpoint, which IS then seized," said Observatory director Rami Abdel Kahman. "Seizing the checkpoint gets them closer to the military airport." Abdel Rahman said fighting continued into Friday morning with both sides shelling positions on the outskirts of Deir Ezzor city. Local activist Mohammad al-Khleif confirmed IS had gained control of the Jamyan checkpoint in the city's southeast. IS already

controls most of Deir Ezzor province and roughly half its capital, he told AFP. If its offensive succeeds, Deir Ezzor would be the second provincial capital to fall to the group, after it named the northern city of Raqa the capital of its "caliphate." In northern Syria, at least six civilians were killed Thursday in attacks in Aleppo city, once Syria's commercial hub but now divided between government control in the west and rebels in the east. The Britain-based Observatory said a woman and three children died after rebel rocket attacks on the government-held Ashrafiyeh neighbourhood. (AFP)

Almost 7,000 Civilians Killed in War: Ukraine President

spokesman Kim Nin-KIEV, Ukraine - Near-Seok said any aggresly 7,000 civilians have sion would be met with been killed in the war a strong, stern response in eastern Ukraine be-"to the degree where you tween government forces and Russian-backed The two Koreas recogseparatists since fighting erupted in April nise different boundaries last year, the nation's dividing their territorial waters in the Yellow Sea. president said Friday. The figures mark a The North argues that the demarcation recogsharp increase from the most recent United Nanised by the South -- the tions tally of around Northern Limit Line 6,100 people killed. Ad-(NLL) -- is invalid bedressing an assembly cause it was unilaterally drawn by US-led United packed with soldiers, Poroshenko said that Nations forces after the 1,657 Ukrainian troops had also been killed in The North recognises combat - which he dewhat it calls the Military Demilitarization Line, scribed as aggression from Russia. Moscow which is south of the

has always denied sup-

plying separatist rebels with either equipment or manpower, but it has been open in its diplomatic support for the separatists. Poroshenko said Russian involvement in the war had forced Ukraine to seek to align further with the West. "Given that the Russian threat is longterm and considering that the aggressive stance and policy of the Russian Federation poses a major threat to national security, the strategy aims to reach full compatibility in the security and defense sectors of Ukraine and NATO," Poroshenko said. (AP)

Putin Meets Xi as Leaders Head to Moscow for WWII

MOSCOW - China's Xi Jinping flew into Moscow on Friday as some two dozen world leaders headed to Russia for a grandiose World War II victory parade snubbed by the West.

Putin called Xi "our great friend" after a meeting at the Kremlin where the two leaders of the neighbouring countries that once shared a Communist ideology said they agreed to strengthen economic ties.

"President Putin and I held detailed and friendlv talks," Xi said, adding that they agreed on the need for "further broad-



ening of Russian and Chinese ties." The two leaders signed a joint declaration on cooperation between a Kremlin-backed trade bloc made up of ex-Soviet allies Russia, Kazakhstan and Belarus, and China's vision of a Silk Road Economic Belt running West through Asia to the markets of Europe. "We are talking about the prospect of entering a new level of partnership with a shared economic space on the whole Eurasian continent," Putin said. (AFP)