

# Aleppo Witnesses Most Violent Military Showdown in 4 Years

DAMASCUS - Syria's northern city of Aleppo is witnessing the most intense shelling and clashes since the conflict began there four years ago, following a major offensive the rebels had waged on Friday, a monitor group reported on Sunday. Hundreds of rockets and unspecified shells targeted government-controlled areas in western Aleppo, as part of the rebels' battle of "Greater Epic of Aleppo," according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The London-based watchdog group said the rebels of Jaish al-Fateh, or the Army of Conquest, one of



12 rebel groups waging the offensive in Aleppo, have received new advanced Grad missile and heavy bombs, whose kind is still unknown. It said the rebels were heavily using the Grad missiles in their

attacks on western Aleppo. Following their offensive, the rebels, including ultra-radical ones, advanced into the government-controlled area of Assad Suburb in western Aleppo, in their push to break the siege imposed by the Syrian army on rebel-held areas in eastern Aleppo. The Observatory, which says it relies on a network of activists on ground, said the Syrian army was trying to unleash a counter-offensive to recapture areas it lost in the Assad Suburb and the Jamiyet al-Zahra area in western Aleppo. It said 55 government forces have so far been killed in the attack. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### China Calls on EU to Fulfill Obligations Under Beijing's WTO Accession Protocol

BEIJING - China hopes the European Union can fulfill its obligations under Article 15 of the Protocol on China's accession to the World Trade Organization (WTO) in due time, a senior diplomat said on Monday. "These are the EU's international obligations and promises," said Assistant Foreign Minister Liu Haixing at a press briefing on the upcoming visit by Premier Li Keqiang to Kyrgyzstan, Latvia and Russia. During his stay in Latvia, Li will attend the Fifth Summit of China and Central and Eastern European Countries (16+1) in Riga. Stressing that China has fulfilled its promises since it entered the WTO in 2001, Liu said the EU has obligations to keep its promises, too.

"We hope the EU can neatly and cleanly fulfill its WTO obligations without any additional conditions by Dec. 11. We will wait and see," Liu told reporters. WTO obligations require the EU to end its "surrogate country system" by Dec. 11, 2016, under which costs of production in a third country are used to calculate the value of products from non-market economies. When asked whether China will "press" central and eastern European countries on the issue, Liu said China "will not press the 16 countries but negotiate with them." "As there are 11 EU members among the 16 central and eastern European countries, these countries will certainly state their stances within the EU," said Liu. (Xinhua)

## UNICEF Report Says 300 Million Children Worldwide Live in Toxic Air

NEW YORK - Around 300 million children live in areas with severe air pollution, at least six times higher than international limits, the U.N. children's agency UNICEF said Monday. Air pollution, both outdoor and indoor, is a major contributing factor in the deaths of around 600,000 children under five years old every year and threatens the health, lives and futures of millions more, UNICEF noted in a newly-released report.

"Children are uniquely vulnerable to air pollution, breathing faster than adults on average and taking in more air relative to their body weight," said UNICEF. According to the agency, children's lungs, brains and immune systems are still developing, which make them more susceptible to polluted air that could cause lifetime harm.



South Asia has 620 million children, the largest number worldwide, living in areas where outdoor air pollution exceeds minimum air quality guidelines set by the World Health Organization, noted UNICEF. It... (More on P4)... (16)

## Iraqi Forces Begin New Push to Enter Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces on Monday advanced closer to the fringes of the city of Mosul in the latest push to drive out Islamic State (IS) militants from their last major stronghold in Iraq. After several hours of fierce fighting, the troops recaptured the villages of Bazwaya, Tubriq and Tahrawa, and are now just three km from the outskirts of Mosul, a source from the Joint Operations Command told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Earlier in the day, a military statement said the

Iraqi army and counter-terrorism forces started the operation at 6:30 a.m. (0330 GMT), advancing in three routes toward the eastern side of the Tigris River, which bisects the city. The Iraqi army has unleashed artillery and mortar fire on IS positions in the industrial area outside Mosul, as Iraqi and allied aircraft pound IS positions inside and outside the city, the source said. During the past two weeks, Iraqi security forces... (More on P4)... (17)

## Pakistani Police Detain 1,500 in Crackdown on Opposition

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani police launched a nationwide crackdown overnight, arresting at least 1,500 supporters of cricketer-turned-politician Imran Khan ahead of an opposition rally planned later this week in Islamabad, officials said Monday. The arrests followed intermittent clashes over the weekend between Khan's supporters and riot police in the capital that saw police using tear gas and batons to fight stone-throwing activists. The violence erupted again Monday when

police fired tear gas on nearly 3,000 supporters on a main highway some 80 kilometer northwest of Islamabad. Khan's party rules in the northwestern Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and its chief minister, Pervez Khattak, and some cabinet ministers led the protesters. Police official Hussain Awan said the protesters pelted police with stones and bricks, burned several vehicles and chanted slogans against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif. Pakistani Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali... (More on P4)... (24)

## US Political Uncertainty Weighs on Global Stocks

LONDON - The revelation that the FBI has opened a new investigation into U.S. presidential candidate Hillary Clinton's private email server weighed on global stock markets on Monday, a little more than a week from election day. Investors around the world also have a raft of potentially market-moving data and events to monitor this week, culminating with Friday's U.S. non-farm payroll report for October. KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, France's CAC 40 was down 0.7 percent to

4,517 while Germany's DAX slipping 0.3 percent to 10,667. Britain's FTSE 100 lost 0.4 percent to 6,967. U.S. indexes were poised for a flat opening, with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures unchanged. US VOIE: FBI Director James Comey dropped a bombshell Friday when he said the agency would review new emails that might be connected to the dormant investigation of Clinton's email practices. In response, the top Senate Democrat, Harry Reid, blasted the... (More on P4)... (18)

## UN Seeks to Mobilize Sustainable Transport Systems, Enterprises See Opportunities

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations is seeking to transform the world's transport sector to promote economic growth and combat climate change, and enterprises see opportunities to benefit from the trend and meanwhile contribute to world development. A report submitted by a high-level advisory group to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sustainable Transport finds that the transformational change of sustainable transport needs annual investments of 2 trillion U.S. dollars,

and related efforts will deliver savings up to 70 trillion dollars by 2050. The report, entitled Mobilizing Sustainable Transport for Development, also finds that a more sustainable transport system with integrated port terminals, well-planned airports and regulations for efficient border crossings could produce a global GDP increase by



2.6 trillion dollars. Martin Lundstedt, CEO of Volvo Group and co-chair of the advisory group, told Xinhua in a recent interview that GDP growth is closely linked to logistical solutions. "When you have such a drive, obviously,..." (More on P4)... (19)

## Australia's Justice Minister to Meet with Chinese Law Enforcement Officials

CANBERRA - Australia's Justice Minister has on Monday embarked on a visit to China aimed at strengthening bilateral ties in the fields of law enforcement and counter-terrorism. Michael Keenan MP released a statement on Monday detailing the official visit; he will meet with counterparts in Beijing, Guangzhou and Shenzhen and discuss a "range of portfolio priorities" which includes "anti-money laundering, counter-terrorism, countering violent extremism, cybercrime and anti-corruption". "Australia and China have a strong and long-standing law... (More on P4)... (20)

## Turkey Detains Opposition Newspaper Editor, Writers

ISTANBUL - Turkish police detained the chief editor and at least 12 senior staff of Turkey's opposition Cumhuriyet newspaper on Monday, in a widening crackdown on dissenting voices. Editor-in-chief Murat Sabuncu, cartoonist Musa Kart, the paper's lawyer and several columnists were detained, some following raids at their homes, Cumhuriyet reported on its website. Police had warrants for the detentions of 16 staff members, the paper said. The detentions at the left-leaning and pro-secular Cumhuriyet - one of Turkey's oldest newspapers - come amid accusations by opposition parties and human rights groups that Turkey's government is using the... (More on P4)... (22)

## Rajoy Sworn in as Spanish Prime Minister

MADRID - Mariano Rajoy was sworn in for his second term as Spanish Prime Minister on Monday morning to end the country's ten-month spell without a government. He was sworn in during a brief ceremony with King Felipe VI of Spain at the Palacio de la Zarzuela on the outskirts of Madrid. After ten months as the leader of a temporary government, Rajoy returned with full powers after winning Saturday's investiture vote in Congress by 170 votes in favor, 111 against and 68 abstentions from the Spanish Socialist Party (PSOE). Despite allowing Rajoy



to return to power, the Socialists have vowed to fight his minority government with PSOE spokesman, Antonio Hernandez telling Rajoy on Saturday they would not back the latter's "odious reforms nor to pardon the grave corruption" within Rajoy's People's Party. "You now do not have the absolute majority... You're now in a clear minority and under the close watch of everyone in this congress," said Hernandez. However, the leaderless PSOE have their own problems after former leader, Pedro Sanchez, who was ousted earlier... (More on P4)... (21)

## Spain, Canada to Conduct Observational Flights over Russia, Belarus

MOSCOW - Spain and Canadian inspectors will conduct observational flights over the Russian and Belarusian territories under the international Open Skies Treaty, a senior Russian defense official said on Monday. "The flights will be carried out between Oct.31 and Nov. 4 on a Canadian aircraft C-130," the Ria-Novosti news agency quoted Sergei Zabello, the acting head of the Russian Defense Ministry's Nuclear Risk Reduction Center, as saying.

He added that the Russian and Belarusian experts will also be on board of the C-130. They will monitor the agreed flight parameters and the use of surveillance equipment adherence to the contract. The flight is part of the confidence-building measures in Europe after the Cold War under the international Open Skies Treaty, which establishes a program of unarmed aerial surveillance flights over the entire territory of its 34 state parties, including Russia... (More on P4)... (23)

## Police Operation Creates Tension in Paris Migrant Camp

PARIS - Paris police rounded up Afghan migrants Monday and cleared away some of their tents in a makeshift camp that has resurged in recent weeks in a new challenge to French government efforts to tackle the migrant crisis. Monday's operation in northeastern Paris, near the Stalingrad subway station, was marked by tension and confusion. Riot police physically forced the migrants back and drew a cordon around them, as some migrants yelled and pushed back on riot shields. Police and regional officials said the operation was aimed at verifying migrants' documents and sanitary conditions. They insisted it wasn't a full-scale evacuation, though city officials cleared away some tents along a canal. President Francois Hollande said Saturday that the Paris camp will be evacuated soon. Such camps frequently surface in Paris, and authorities routinely clear them out and move some migrants to temporary shelter. Aid groups say some of the Paris migrants recently fled a camp being dismantled in Calais, though Hollande said most are from recent waves of migration to Europe via Libya. Shikhali Mirzai, a young man who says he arrived in Paris from Afghanistan five days ago, said he did not understand why the police were trashing their tents. "Where are these people going to sleep?" Mirzai asked. "It's very cold. It's very cold. This isn't a life, it's an animal's life." (AP)

## Iran Welcomes Election of Aoun as Lebanon's President

TEHRAN - Iran has offered felicitations to former general Michel Aoun for his election as Lebanon's new president which ended a 29-month presidential vacuum in the country. After four rounds of voting, including two unexpected repeat votes, Aoun secured the presidency on Monday by winning the support of 83 out of 127 MPs, well above the absolute majority of 65 needed to win. The 81-year-old Christian leader had managed to secure the support of two of his greatest rivals: Samir Geagea, the leader of the Christian Lebanese Forces, and ex-prime minister, Saad Hariri. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi on Monday said the "important and sensitive" agreement among dif-

ferent Lebanese political parties and lawmakers after some two and a half years of extensive consultations was an imperative step to institutionalize democracy and reinforce stability throughout the country. He added that the election of the Lebanese president was an important measure in the current sensitive situation in the Middle East region. "By electing Michel Aoun as Lebanon's president, political movements reiterated the important fact that Lebanon is still the cradle of various tribes and religions and is a clear example of peaceful coexistence of the followers of different religions and faiths and that agreement and consultations among political currents are the only solution to problems," Qassemi said. (Presstv)

## Turkmenistan's Leader Heads to Russia for Talks with Putin

ASHGABAT - The president of Turkmenistan is due visit Moscow on November 1 for talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin against the backdrop of a worsening domestic economic crisis. Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry announced the trip in an uninformative one-line statement, so there is no immediate insight into what the focus of the encounter will be. The Kremlin's own statement on the meeting was not much more helpful. "Key areas in bilateral cooperation will be the main subject of discussion at the talks. The two presi-

dents are also expected to exchange views on current regional issues," the Kremlin said. That cryptic statement suggests there is every chance that Turkmen leader Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov will be seeking to whet Russia's appetite for resuming its purchases of Turkmen gas. The countries have over the years signed more than 100 bilateral agreements covering a range of areas of cooperation. A key document was the April 23, 2002, Friendship and Cooperation Treaty. Russian business are... (More on P4)... (25)