

Half Million Children Live Under Siege in Syria: UNICEF

GENEVA - As violence continues to escalate across Syria, nearly 500,000 children now live in 16 besieged areas across the country, UNICEF warned on Sunday. According to UNICEF, the number of children living under siege has doubled in less than one year and the children were almost completely cut off from sustained humanitarian aid and basic services. "For millions of human beings in Syria, life has become an endless nightmare -- in particular for the hundreds of thousands of children living



under siege. Children are being killed and injured, too afraid to go to school or even play, surviving with little food and hardly any medicine," said Anthony Lake, UNICEF executive director. "This is no way to live -- and too many are dying." Some communities have received little to no aid in nearly two years. In eastern Aleppo alone, UNICEF estimates that 100,000 children are living under siege. In the absence of safe spaces, children are turning to basement playgrounds, ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Trump Aide Says Clinton Shouldn't Join Recount

WASHINGTON - A senior Donald Trump adviser is calling Hillary Clinton's decision to join a recount effort "incredible" and noting that the president-elect has not ruled out pursuing a criminal investigation into his former Democratic rival. Trump adviser Kellyanne Conway told CNN's "State of the Nation" that Trump has not ruled out a criminal probe into Clinton's use of a private email server as secretary of state, even though Trump recently indicated he'd rather not

do so. Conway said, "He's been incredibly gracious and magnanimous to Secretary Clinton at a time when, for whatever reason, her folks are saying they will join in a recount to try to somehow undo the 70-plus electoral votes that he beat her by." She added, "The idea that we are going to drag this out now where the president-elect has been incredibly magnanimous to the Clintons and to the Obamas is pretty incredible." ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Russia May Join Output Freeze Deal if OPEC Reach Consensus: Minister

MOSCOW - Russia may join an oil output freeze agreement if the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) reaches a consensus within itself, Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Saturday. The Russian minister made the remarks ahead of an OPEC meeting to discuss the implementation of production cap measures. "We support the position that OPEC countries should first reach a consensus within the organization before non-OPEC producers join the agreement,"

Novak told reporters. He added that Russia remains positive about the agreement and would continue to participate in relevant consultations. At an informal meeting of OPEC in Algeria in late September, participants agreed to restrict oil output, but there was no special agreement on specific limits or cuts for particular countries. The oil cartel is scheduled to meet in Vienna, Austria on Nov. 30 in a bid to finalize a detailed deal. Novak said on Thursday that ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

UNITED NATION - While 2016 saw some victories in countering violence against women and domestic abuse, including the International Criminal Court's first conviction for sexual violence, the statistics remain grim. In the US alone, three women are killed due to domestic violence every day. Therefore, on Nov. 25, International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women Day, United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon called on governments around the

world to increase spending in areas that will empower women, help domestic violence victims, and prevent future abuse. "Violence against women and girls imposes large-scale costs on families, communities, and economies," the secretary-general said in a statement. The net result "is enormous suffering as well as the exclusion of women from playing their full and rightful roles in society. The world cannot afford to pay this price. Women and girls cannot afford it -- and should not



have to, yet such violence persists every day, around the world." Many have suggested legal changes that could improve the situation of victims and prevent abusers from repeating their

behavior, including an expanded definition of violence against women and harsher consequences for non-physical violence such as stalking, harassment, emotional abuse, and verbal ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Clinton Says Yea to Recount, Trump Says Nay

UN Report: How to Curb Violence Against Women

MOSCOW - Oil prices fell sharply Friday after Saudi Arabia pulled out of a scheduled meeting with Russia and other oil producers outside the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries. OPEC and non-OPEC members were scheduled to meet Monday to discuss production cuts ahead of the 14-nation oil cartel's Nov. 30 meeting. At 2:55 a.m. EST Saturday, Brent crude oil, the global benchmark, was trading at \$47.12 a barrel, lower by almost 4 percent, but dipped below the \$47 mark several times



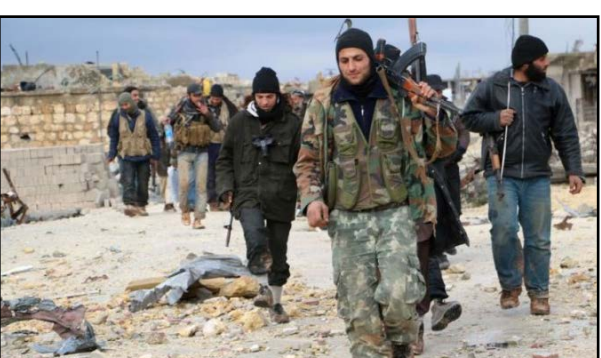
in the preceding hour. WTI Crude, the U.S. benchmark, was trading at a loss of over 4 percent at \$45.96 a barrel. In the meeting between OPEC and non-OPEC producers, Russia,

which along with Saudi Arabia is one of the world's two largest producers, was expected to offer to freeze production at current levels instead of reducing it. Saudi Arabia pulled out of

the talks due to disagreements over sharing supply cuts, and the Monday talks collapsed before they even started. An OPEC official said Friday that Saudi Arabia wanted the cartel members to clear up their own differences before they sat down at the table with non-OPEC members, the Wall Street Journal reported. Crude oil prices had recovered during the past week after Iran, an OPEC member reluctant to agree to production cuts, signaled its willingness to fall in line with the cartel's plans. (AP)

Syrian Army Secures Evacuation of 1,500 Civilians from Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army forces have secured the evacuation of 1,500 civilians from rebel-held areas in eastern Aleppo city in northern Syria, state news agency SANA reported Sunday. The civilians have been evacuated from rebel-held areas through routes previously identified by the Syrian army, which repeatedly called on the rebels in eastern Aleppo to allow civilians to leave. However, the repeated calls were met with deaf ears from the rebels' side, until the Syrian forces



went on a wide-scale offensive over the past few days against major rebel strongholds in eastern Aleppo. The Syrian forces fully recaptured the Jabal Badro neighborhood in eastern Aleppo Sunday, a day af-

Winter Closes in on Refugees Fleeing Iraq's Mosul

HASAN SHAM CAMP, Iraq - Pushing his way through dozens of people, Iraqi teacher Umar Salah carries four bags containing 15 blankets and pots full of food through the gate of a camp overcrowded with civilians who fled Islamic State in Mosul. Soldiers only occasionally open the gate to allow civilians to bring supplies to relatives inside, as authorities struggle to accommodate some 1,000 people fleeing the fighting every day since Iraqi forces launched a campaign to expel the militants. U.S.-backed Iraqi government troops and Kurdish security forces have launched the biggest battle in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion to drive Islamic State fighters from Mosul, the militant group's last major bastion in the country, many times larger than any other ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

French Conservatives Voting to Choose Presidential Nominee

PARIS - French conservatives on Sunday are choosing their nominee for next year's vital presidential election from among two former prime ministers with deep experience in government and differing views on how to prevent more terror attacks on French soil. The contenders in the conservative's primary runoff -- Francois Fillon, 62, and 71-year-old Alain Juppe -- are both high-profile leaders of the center-right Republicans party. Fillon, who wants to focus on fighting Islamic extremism, is judged by many to be the front-runner. The winner of the runoff ultimately could end up facing far-right National Front leader Marine Le Pen, who is banking on anti-immigrant, anti-Muslim and anti-establishment sentiments to sweep her to power in the general election set for April, with a runoff the following month if neither side wins a majority. The incumbent, Socialist President Francois Hollande is expected to announce in the coming weeks whether he will seek re-election. The position of the French left has been weakened by Hollande's extreme unpopularity. Fillon has enjoyed a strong boost in popularity in recent weeks. He promotes traditional family values and said he plans to reduce immigration to France "to a minimum." Juppe is advocating a more peaceful vision of French society, based on respect for religious freedom and ethnic diversity. The two also have strongly different views on how to deal with Russian President Vladimir Putin, with Fillon in favor of forging closer ties ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Swiss Seen Rejecting Speedy Exit from Atomic Power

ZURICH - Swiss voters were likely on Sunday to reject a speedy exit from the nation's five nuclear power plants, as concerns over losing energy independence outweighed the safety worries raised by the measure's proponents. In preliminary early afternoon results, 55 percent of voters had rejected the initiative, with 45 percent favoring it in a vote that was part of the Swiss system of direct democracy giving citizens a final say on important issues. Swiss reactors Muehleberg and Beznau I and II would be shuttered next year, followed by Goesgen in ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Turkey Reports Chemical Exposure of Syrian Fighters

ANKARA - Turkey-backed Free Syrian Army fighters showed signs of chemical exposure after Islamic State (IS) attack in northern Syria, Turkish General Staff stated on Sunday. Altogether 22 fighters, who fight IS in alliance with Turkish forces within the scope of Operation Euphrates Shield, were observed showing symptoms of chemical gas exposure in northern Syria's Khalidiyah region, the general staff said in a statement quoted by the state-run Anadolu Agency. Moreover, a clash with IS terrorists had left one opposition fighter dead and 14 others injured, it said. The affected Syrian fighters were brought over the frontier to the Turkish border town of Kilis by teams



from the Disaster and Emergency Management Presidency of Turkey. The emergency workers were reportedly equipped with special chemical suits to protect themselves. Meanwhile, Turkish warplanes destroyed four IS targets in the Anifah neighborhood near al-Bab, also in Syria's north. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Sanctions Renewal by US Breach of Commitments: Khamenei

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says the renewal of sanctions against the Islamic Republic by the US is tantamount to the violation of commitments under the landmark nuclear deal between Iran and the group of six countries known as the P5+1. "In the [nuclear] negotiations there was a lot of debate about the sanctions but now they raise

the issue of extending the sanctions in the US Congress and claim that these are not sanctions but renewal [of sanctions]," the Leader said in a meeting with a group of Iranian Navy commanders and officials in Tehran on Sunday on the occasion of National Navy Day. "Launching sanctions' is no different from 'renewing them after their expiration,' and the latter is also [an instance of ...*(More on P4)...(24)*]

Militants Kidnap Six Pakistanis Working for Polish Oil Firm

DERA ISMAIL KHAN, Pakistan - Six Pakistanis working for a Polish oil and gas surveying company have been kidnapped in northwestern Pakistan, military sources told Reuters, years after a Polish engineer from the same company was beheaded by Pakistani militants. The six Geofizyka Krakow workers were snatched from their vehicles on Saturday afternoon on a road near the village of Drazinda, about 80km (50 miles) from the city of Dera Ismail Khan, two officials with security forces in the area said. One of the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity as they are not authorized to speak to

media, provided Reuters with the names and national identity card numbers of the workers. Geofizyka Krakow, a subsidiary of Poland's state-run gas firm PGNiG, could not be immediately reached for comment. On its website, the PGNiG local unit said it had gone into liquidation in August 2016. "They were sub-contractors providing works for Geofizyka Krakow, a company which is now in liquidation. They were not Polish," a PGNiG spokesman said. He declined to give any more details. A Polish foreign ministry spokeswoman tweeted that there were no Polish citizens in the ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

ODIHR Makes Report on Pre-Election Campaign in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - OSCE experts stressed the improvement of the electoral legislation of Uzbekistan after the presidential election in March 2015, said the interim report of the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) following monitoring of the presidential election November 2-20. Calling the upcoming election as a "turning point in the history of the country after 25 years of leadership of the country's first President Islam Karimov", the experts stressed that the amendments to the electoral law were made taking into account the previous ODIHR recommendations. Among important innovations are the conditions

created for people with disabilities during voting. Moreover, for the first time, ballots were prepared for blind people. According to the ODIHR mission, the country's Central Election Committee (CEC) conducted trainings for the members of precinct election commissions. According to the experts, the candidates running for the presidency used video conferencing during the meetings with voters in the regions. According to the report, there are some shortcomings in the electoral process, in particular, the lack of a single electronic registrar of voters. ODIHR has been involved in election monitoring in Uzbekistan for the seventh time. (Trend)

Turkmenistan, OSCE Cooperate in Energy Security

ASHGABAT - Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov met with OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier in Ashgabat, Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper reported. According to the message, the priority aspect of cooperation is to ensure energy security as an important factor of global sustainable development. "Strengthening of the constructive cooperation with the OSCE is an important priority of Turkmenistan's foreign policy strategy," President Berdimuhamedov was cited by the newspaper as saying. Zannier emphasized the interest in expanding cooperation with Turk-

menistan. Turkmenistan joined OSCE January 30, 1992. Several big international OSCE and UN forums, including those on energy security have been recently held in Ashgabat. Ashgabat considers it appropriate to intensify the energy dialogue within OSCE, formulate mechanisms for multilateral consultations on political, financial, economic, technological and environmental aspects of the construction and operation of the pipeline infrastructure. Turkmenistan supports a number of initiatives to ensure the reliable and stable supply of energy resources to the world markets as part of the UN. (Trend)