

1,000 Islamic State Fighters Killed in Mosul: Security Forces

BARTELLA, Iraq - Iraqi special forces battling to clear Islamic State from eastern Mosul have killed nearly 1,000 militants but fighting has slowed as troops face a mobile enemy hidden among thousands of civilians in the city, a top commander said.

Six weeks into a major offensive, Iraqi forces have captured nearly half of eastern Mosul, moving from district to district against jihadist snipers, suicide attackers and car bombs.

Elite Iraqi troops, known as the "Golden Division",



are the only brigades to have entered Mosul from the east, with Iraqi army, federal police and Kurdish Peshmerga units surrounding the city to the north and south. Shi'ite militias are trying to complete the encirclement from the west. The U.S.-trained Counter Terrorism Service unit breached Islamic State's defenses at the end of October, but has been slowed by the militants' mobile tactics and concern over civilian casualties preventing the use of tanks and heavy armor. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

China, Turkey Working Toward Modern Silk Road

ISTANBUL - At the heart of Istanbul lies the Topkapi Palace, a must-see to tourists from around the world for its rich trove of treasures collected during a period of some 400 years as Ottoman Sultans' residence. Among the antiques are thousands of Chinese porcelain pieces made during China's dynasties of Song (960-1279), Yuan (1206-1368), Ming (1368-1644), and Qing (1644-1911), the largest collection of Chinese ceramics outside of China.

The first recorded use of the Chinese wares in the palace was in 1457 at the circumcision ceremonies for Fatih Sultan Mehmed II's two sons, Bayezid and Mustafa, Turkey's Hurriyet daily reported back in 2013. All the wares are silent witnesses to China's interactions with Turkey and the region during the ancient Silk Road period. "We first established our relations with China through the merchants ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Trump Warns he Might 'Terminate' U.S. Outreach to Cuba

WASHINGTON - President-elect Donald Trump warned Monday that he would "terminate" U.S. diplomatic and economic outreach to Cuba unless Havana undertakes unspecified steps to benefit its people, Cuban-Americans and the United States. "If Cuba is unwilling to make a better deal for the Cuban people, the Cuban/American people and the U.S. as a whole, I will terminate deal," Trump said on Twitter. The president-elect's comment came two days after Trump greeted Fidel Cas-

tro's death with a statement that notably did not repeat campaign-trail promises to roll back President Obama's historic outreach to Cuba. Since Election Day, Trump has seemed to soften some of his hardline campaign promises, leaving it unclear exactly what he'll do on issues like Cuba when he takes office on Jan. 20. Trump did not spell out what a "better deal" would look like, though Republican critics of Obama's strategy have underlined that his approach has not ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

Merkel Says she will Deport 100,000 Migrants

BERLIN - In one of the most shocking flip-flops in recent political history, German Chancellor Angela Merkel now says she will deport about 10% of recently arrived migrants - 100,000 of them. But more than that, her tone on granting asylum to migrants has radically changed. Sunday Express: The beleaguered Chancellor said authorities would significantly step up the rate of forced returns as she battles to arrest an alarming slump in

her popularity which has fuelled a surge in support for the far-right. Mrs Merkel, whose decision to roll out the red carpet to migrants from across Africa and the Middle East spectacularly backfired, has taken an increasingly tough tone on immigration in recent months. And in her toughest rhetoric yet the German leader told MPs from her party this week: "The most important thing in the coming months is repatriation, repatriation and once more, repatriation."



The stance marks an astonishing U-turn from the once pro-refugee Chancellor, who has been widely pilloried by critics at home and abroad for her decision to throw open Germany's borders to millions of migrants. Her extraordinary change of heart has been prompted largely by a series of catastrophic local election results for her ruling Christian Democratic Union ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

British PM Says Brexit Keeps Her Awake At Night

LONDON - Theresa May admitted Sunday that of all of the challenges she faces as Britain's prime minister, it is Brexit that keeps her awake at night. The politician opened the door of Number 10 Downing Street to give a rare insight about her journey to the top job in government. May is known for not being a regular in the tea rooms and bars at Westminster where many politicians mingle and discuss matters of the day. As the Sunday Times said in its in-depth profile and interview Sunday, even members of



May's own cabinet don't know her. What politicians on all sides of the political divide do know is that before becoming prime minister, May served as the country's top interior minister at the Home Office for longer any other Home Secretary since 1892. May was cascaded into the job following the resignation earlier this year of David Cameron after the June 23

referendum vote when Britain voted to leave the European Union. May has signaled her intention to trigger the leave process by the end of March, hoping she can do so without the permission of politicians in the two Houses of Parliament. That will be decided in just over a week when Britain's highest court, the Supreme Court, will rule whether May must put the Brexit issue before the parliament. In the interview, May admitted that of all things on her plate, it is Brexit keeping her awake at night. (Xinhua)

Syrian Army Captures Nearly Half of Rebel-Held Territory in Aleppo City

DAMASCUS - Syrian government forces are now in control of nearly half of the rebel-held areas in eastern Aleppo city in northern Syria, a military source told Xinhua on Monday. Government forces and allied fighters have so far captured 20 out of 45 sq. km of rebel-held areas in eastern Aleppo, the source said on condition of anonymity. He added that all of the northern section of eastern Aleppo has come under government control, after



the northern part of eastern Aleppo was isolated from its south. As a result of a broad offensive launched recently, Syrian government forces have recaptured the neighborhoods of Sakhour,

Sheikh Khuder, Sheikh Fares, Bustan al-Basha, Baibdien, Slaiman al-Halabi, Halak, Inzarat, Ayn Tal Jabal Badro, and Masaken Hanano in eastern Aleppo. Thousands of civilians have ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Britain Promises Close Ties with Poland after EU Exit

LONDON - Britain is promising Poland strong business, diplomatic and cultural ties - as well as a deployment of troops near the Russian border - as London tries to build goodwill with European allies ahead of European Union exit talks. Prime Minister Theresa May is meeting Polish Prime Minister Beata Szydlo at 10 Downing St. Monday. May said before the meeting that she was "determined that Brexit will not weaken our relationship with Poland, rather it will serve as a catalyst to strengthen it." Szydlo said in a Daily Telegraph article that striking a good Brexit deal would require compromise on all sides. Britain says it will send 150 troops to Poland in April as part of a NATO deployment to provide reassurance amid concerns about Russian military activities. (AP)

Polish, German Presidents Visit NATO Command Center

WARSAW, Poland - The presidents of Poland and of Germany on Monday visited NATO's easternmost command center, which is being upgraded for quick reaction in the event of a threat to the alliance's eastern flank. Andrzej Duda and Joachim Gauck stressed the important role that the headquarters of NATO's Multinational Corps Northeast in Szczecin, northwestern Poland, plays at a time of concern for Europe's security. They met with the center's commanders and troops and visited the main command post and the military barracks that house troops from the U.S. and 24 other nations, including non-NATO countries Finland and Sweden. Formed in 1999, around the time when Poland and other countries of the region joined NATO, the corps plays a deterrent role but can potentially command defensive action. "This multi-national corps plays an important role in assuring security at a time when politicians and societies alike have concerns as to security in Europe," Gauck said. Duda said that potential threats could be coming from the "south and the east" - referring to an uncontrolled migrant influx and Russia, respectively - "not to mention the threat of terrorism." Following Russia's seizure of the Crimean Peninsula from Ukraine in 2014, a NATO summit that year decided to raise the corps' readiness to high and to double its force to 400 troops, as a deterrent. It's chiefly made up of land units but also has special forces. The corps' area of responsibility covers Poland, the Baltic ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Turkey's Emergency Rule to Continue as Long as Necessary: Deputy PM

ISTANBUL - Turkey's emergency rule, instituted in the days immediately following the July 15 failed coup, will continue as long as necessary, Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus told a news conference on Monday. President Tayyip Erdogan has previously said emergency rule - initially introduced for three months and subsequently extended for another three - could continue for beyond a year. Erdogan declared a state of emergency days after the failed putsch, allowing him and the cabinet to bypass parliament in enacting new laws and ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

More than 2,000 Displaced in Nigeria's Largest State Due to Attacks: Official

ABUJA - More than 2,000 people have been displaced by attacks caused by local cattle rustlers in central Nigeria's Niger State, an official said on Monday. Ibrahim Inga, director general of the Niger State Emergency Management Agency, told reporters the number of displaced people was growing in the country's largest state due to recent attacks by rustlers from neighboring states of Zamfara, Kebbi, Kaduna and Sokoto. He said most of the victims are currently being sheltered in Rafi, Shiroro and Pandogari districts of the state. The rescue agency had distributed relief materials to ease the living conditions of the



displaced people, he added. Attacks by cattle rustlers had increased in the past three weeks in Niger State whose land mass is 76, 469 square kilometers, about 10 percent of the total land area of Nigeria, Africa's most populous country. Inga told Xinhua a joint ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Nieghbor News

Senior Chinese Leader Meets Islamic Representatives

BEIJING - Senior Chinese leader Yu Zhengsheng on Monday urged the Islamic Association of China (IAC) to continue to make contributions to ethnic solidarity, religious harmony and social stability. Yu, chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), made the remarks while meeting with representatives of the 10th National Con-

gress of Chinese Muslims, which was held in Beijing from Saturday to Monday. He said that the Islamic circles of China should advocate the fine traditions of patriotism, being law-abiding, inclusiveness, and adapting itself to the socialist society of China. Yu called on the IAC to lead Islamic clergy and believers in China to follow the country's religious policies, to ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

ECP to Scrutinise Parliamentarians' Financial Assets from Dec 1

ISLAMABAD - The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) during an open hearing on Monday decided to scrutinise parliamentarians' assets starting December 01, ECP officials told Dawn-News. The decision was made as it came to light that although parliamentarians filed details of their assets, these details would not be verified, officials said. The Political Finance Wing of the ECP will initiate a probe under Additional Secretary ECP Fida Mohammad, the officials said, adding that the investigation would begin randomly as opposed to the ECP's previous plan of kickstarting the probe with heads of parliament.

ECP dismisses petitions against PM, Imran Khan. The ECP on Monday also dismissed two separate petitions from ordinary citizens seeking to disqualify Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf Chairman Imran Khan. -sources. A citizen, Manzar Bhatti, filed a petition against the premier saying that the PM illegally used the country's assets for his recent medical treatment in London. The petition was discarded, with the ECP saying the matter should be resolved in court. A case against the prime minister and his family members is ongoing in the Supreme Court. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Hopes OPEC Members Reach Deal to Cut Crude Output

TEHRAN - Iran hopes that a deal would be reached in the upcoming meeting of the member states of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) to cut crude production, Iran's Petroleum Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said on Sunday. "The discussions show that OPEC can reach a sustainable agreement over its production and the management of the market," Zanganeh was quoted as saying by Press

TV. "If we reach an agreement, which I'm optimistic we will, the prices will rise. This is what the international economy also demands," Zanganeh said on the sidelines of a meeting with visiting Algerian Energy Minister Noureddine Boutarfa. Earlier, Algeria proposed cuts of 1.1 million barrels per day (bpd) for OPEC members and 600,000 bpd for non-OPEC producers. Iran carefully studied Algeria's proposal ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Turkmenistan Joins Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan has joined the Intergovernmental Agreement on the Trans-Asian Railway Network, Intergovernmental Agreement on the Asian Highway Network, as well as the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports, said the country's Oil and Gas Complex in a message Nov. 28. Meanwhile, the country has joined the International Convention on the Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, according to the message.

These agreements are aimed at harmonization and simplification of intermodal transportation in the Asia-Pacific region, the expansion of international trade, improving the efficiency and reducing the cost of transportation and logistics services, meeting the needs of landlocked countries. The message says that the Intergovernmental Agreement on Dry Ports was signed on Nov. 7, 2013, in Bangkok (Thailand) by representatives of ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

RSF Reinforces Alliance with Partner in Tajikistan

DUSHANBEH - Reporters Without Borders (RSF) is stepping up cooperation with the National Association of Independent Mass Media in Tajikistan (NANSMIT) with the aim of providing journalists with more support following recent developments that do not bode well for freedom of information in Tajikistan. As freedom of the press and the situation of independent media continue

to decline in this Central Asian country, RSF and NANSMIT have decided to reinforce a partnership focused on protecting freedom of information. To this end, they have signed an agreement that will enable them to provide more effective coverage of violations of the right to inform and be informed. President Emomali Rahmon signed a law on 2 ...*(More on P4)...(23)*