

# NATO Calling on Russia to De-Conflict its Military Activities in Syria

BRUSSELS - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg said "Russia's deployment of significant forces in Syria is of great concern" at a press conference Tuesday.

Defense ministers of NATO countries will address the situation in Syria, Ukraine and Afghanistan, as well as the reinforcement of collective defense under the growing challenges from east and south on Thursday's meeting.

Stoltenberg said that Russia has built up a substantial military presence including ground troops in Syria over the



last weeks, on which deep concern. that "Russian combat Turkish airspace," calling on Russia to de-conflict its military activities in Syria.

Stoltenberg said "Russia's deployment of significant forces in Syria is of great concern" at a press conference Tuesday.

In response to a question from media, Stoltenberg answered "It doesn't look like an accident and we also have seen two of them during the weekend."

Russian Defense Ministry on Monday blamed bad weather conditions for the brief violation of Turkish airspace by a Russian aircraft near Syrian border.

"The incident was a consequence of unfavorable weather conditions in the area. One should not look for any conspiracy theories here," the ministry said. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### 23 Senior Officials and Activists of IRPT Detained

BISHKEK - Some 23 senior officials and activists of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan (IRPT), which was recognized as a terrorist organization by the Supreme Court of Tajikistan last week, were detained since September 16, reports the General Prosecutor's Office of the country.

The released statement claims that the detained IRPT members are accused of preparing an armed rebellion under former Deputy Defense Minister General Abdulhalim Nazarzoda's guidance to seize the power.

The criminal probes were launched against the captured. They are charged of terrorism, establishment of criminal community, incitement of ethnic and religious hatred, attempted overthrow of government, attempted coup, armed rebellion and a number of other charges under the Criminal Code of Tajikistan.

Meanwhile, the General Prosecutor's Office notes that the law abiding members of the party will not be prosecuted.

"If party members do not quit IRPT and still propagate IRPT ideas even after the Supreme Court has announced its decision, they will be prosecuted then," said the General Prosecutor's Office. (AKIpress)

He added that international organizations must protest Saudi Arabia's ongoing aggression against Yemen amounts to "war crime."

### Saudi Aggression on Yemen Constitutes War Crime: Iran

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani says Saudi Arabia's military campaign against Yemen amounts to "war crime."

"Targeting residential areas, hospitals, service [providing] centers and the carnage of innocent women and children along with the inhumane blockade of the Yemeni people are flagrant examples of war crime," Shamkhani said in a meeting with a delegation from Yemen's Supreme Revolutionary Committee

in Tehran on Tuesday. He added that international organizations must protest Saudi Arabia's ongoing aggression against Yemen.

Shamkhani said the Saudi government's use of weapons containing toxic gas in its missile attacks on residential areas in Yemen is aimed at "genocide and suppressing the legitimate resistance" of the Yemeni nation. The SNSC secretary called on the international community to seek a political solution to the Yemen crisis. (PressTV)

### At Least 588 Lives Lost in Terror Attacks Since January, Pak Senate Told

ISLAMABAD - At least 588 Pakistanis lost their lives in terror-related incidents between January to August this year, Pakistani Interior Ministry informed the Senate on Tuesday.

In response to questions raised by a number of members of the Upper House of Parliament, the Interior Ministry in its written reply stated that about 588 Pakistanis were killed while 1,007 were injured in 821 incidents of terrorism, which occurred between January to August this year. The data provided does not include the victims of PAF base attack incident, which took place in September.

query the Ministry of Defence stated that ten military courts are functioning across the country and the establishment of eleventh court is under process. In a written reply to a question asked by Senator Azam Khan Swati, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif informed the House that the names and related information about the judges appointed in the courts might not be disclosed keeping in view safety and security of the court.

He said that this provision existed in the Pakistan Army (Amendment) Ordinances 2015 which had already been passed by the Senate on August 11. (Agencies)

### China, U.S. Relations to Continue to Improve: Former U.S. Secretary of Labor

LOS ANGELES - "China and U.S. relations will continue to improve. There's no other choice," said Elaine Chao, former U.S. secretary of labor, in a recent interview with Xinhua.

"The U.S. and China are the two largest economies, they must get along with each other," said Chao who served as U.S. Secretary of Labor in the cabinet of President George W. Bush from 2001 to 2009, the first Chinese-American serving in the U.S. cabinet. "It is very important for the president of China to come to the United States as it is important for the president of the United States to go to China to show top level communications and interests in getting to know each other," Chao said. It is only through

repeated visits and greater communications that there will be better understanding and more harmony between the two countries, she said.

Trust is critical among different countries and peoples, she said, adding that having top level leaders' meetings such as the ones between the president of China and the president of the U.S. late September are good toward fostering greater trust. To enhance the U.S.-China relations, Chao emphasized public diplomacy and increased interactions between both countries.

"There are more and more students coming to the U.S. from China. There are many American students going to China," she said. (Xinhua)

### Russian Actions in Syria Aim for Political Settlement

MOSCOW - Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Tuesday said that all Russian actions in Syria aim for the political settlement of Syrian conflicts. "The political track and political settlement is the final objective of all the actions of Russia. This is also certainly the only possible goal of the whole international community as well as the Syrian leadership," Peskov said. There are media reports about Syrian opposition members claiming that Russia's actions in the country would make them refuse to attend political settlement talks. Earlier in the day, Russia's ambassador to NATO Alexander Grushko criticized the "information war" started by the West on the situation in Syria. "The impression is that the incident of Russian aircraft violating Turkey's airspace was used to involve NATO in the West's information campaign launched to pervert and distort the goals of the operation carried out by Russia's aerospace forces in Syria," Grushko said. "Such problems are sorted out through bilateral or military channels in line with established practice," Interfax news agency quoted Grushko as saying. Grushko claimed that the explanation of the Russian side has been ignored, which revealed true intentions of the conveners of Monday's North Atlantic Council meeting. Their objectives could also be confirmed by the NATO statement issued after the meeting, alleging that Russian air strikes have not targeted the Islamic State terrorist group and caused civilian casualties, the diplomat said. "I do not believe that NATO is unable to fix and analyze the detailed data about the actions of Russian..." (More on P4)...(19)

### UNICEF Launches Education Campaign in Kenya

NAIROBI - The UN children's fund (UNICEF), together with Educate A Child (EAC), a program of Qatar's Education Above All Foundation, has launched a project to accelerate access to education for children in the most remote areas of Kenya.

The program, Operation Come-To-School, seeks to reach out to 300,000 kids in the East African nation by 2018, the two agencies said in a joint statement issued in Nairobi on Tuesday.

The program will help children in the arid and semi-arid lands in northern Kenya, and informal urban settlements in Nairobi and the coastal regions.

"UNICEF is committed to supporting the government of Kenya to ensure that out-of-school children are not denied one of their most basic human rights - the right to education," said Pirkko Heinonen, Acting Interim Representative of UNICEF in Kenya.

Heinonen said the program is in line with Kenya's Ministry of Education's 2014-2018 National Education Sector Program to accelerate access to education for the most marginalized children. Kenya has nearly 1.5 million children, aged 6-13 years old, who are out of school due to poverty, child marriage and gender-related cultural practices.

The programme will focus on improving demand for education to increase school enrolment and attendance; enhancing school facilities, including construction of classrooms, solar lighting and sanitation facilities; strengthening in-school teaching and the learning process through a child-friendly school approach; providing mobile schools and alternative basic education so that nomadic children can access education, and strengthening the county's education system. (Xinhua)

## Turkey's Political Parties Gear up for Snap Elections

ANKARA - Less than a month to the snap elections in Turkey, political parties are striving to woo voters with new promises amid economic and security challenges facing the country of 78 million people.

Unveiling its election manifesto on Sunday, the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) focused on bread-and-butter issues, similar to the main opposition Republican Peoples' Party (CHP) pledges for a pay rise for pensioners and a hike in minimum wages. Having lost the majority in parliament for the first time in the June 7 elections after ruling Turkey for the last 13 years, the AKP has revised its position on the campaign by matching or



coming close to the offers made by the opposition parties. Four months ago, the AKP criticized the main opposition's pledges on the grounds that they lack the resources, Mehmet Yilmaz, a Turkish analyst, said. "I wonder if those criticizing voices will say the same thing about the AKP now," he said. On its part, the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) centered its campaign theme on dealing with terrorism that has killed hundreds since July, including civilians, ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Kerry Calls for End to Cuban Embargo

SANTIAGO - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday called on his country's lawmakers to lift the five-decade-old trade embargo against Cuba.

"I personally think the embargo should be lifted, because doing so would help the Cuban people," Kerry said in a televised interview in Chile, where he was attending an international conference.

According to Kerry, the United States would continue to gradually normalize ties with Cuba, which was severed during the John F. Kennedy administration.



The Cuban side believes normalizing bilateral ties with Washington, apart from the U.S. occupation of Guantanamo. (Xinhua)

### UK Minister Rejects EU Migration Pact, Vows Tighter Borders

LONDON - Britain will never "in a thousand years" agree to a common European immigration policy to deal with the surging number of refugees fleeing to the continent, a top government official declared Tuesday. Home Secretary Theresa May, the U.K.'s interior minister, told an audience at the Conservative Party conference that Britain should tighten control of its borders, admitting vulnerable refugees but keeping out those who simply want a better life. She said other European countries should also toughen up their border controls, arguing that in the last few years more people had applied for asylum in the EU from Balkan countries - which have not seen war for years - than from war-torn Syria. She said Europe's immigration crisis "can only be resolved by nation states taking responsibility themselves - and protecting their own national borders." May said the arrival in Europe of hundreds of thousands of migrants had "led some people to say we need a new approach, a new European approach that would involve a common immigration and asylum policy." "To those people, I have a very clear answer: Not in a thousand years," May said. In a tough speech on immigration, May said Britain would combine "hard-headed common sense with warm-hearted compassion." She said "it's impossible to build a cohesive society" with the high levels of immigration that Britain has seen in the past decade. (AP)

## Rocket Attacks Target Govt. Headquarters in Yemen's Aden

ADEN - Several rockets hit the headquarters of Yemen's prime minister and his cabinet in the southern port city of Aden on Tuesday morning, causing massive explosions that rocked the whole city. "The hotel where Prime Minister Khaled Bahah has been residing along with a number of ministers and elite troops of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) was targeted by rocket attacks," a local military official told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Bahah, who escaped the rocket attack unharmed, told Xinhua that "we will stay in Aden and our efforts will not be stopped." Government spokesman Rajeh Badi said Bahah and all the ministers are safe and have moved to a well-guarded place. Medical sources said that initial reports indicate that more than 18 people were killed during the attack, most of them soldiers guarding the hotel. Columns of black smoke could be seen rising from the targeted hotel and heavy armored vehicles and troopers were de-



ployed around the area. Witnesses said that warplanes of the Saudi-led coalition were heard flying over Aden a few minutes after the blasts took place at the government headquarters. A security source said that a military base located in Aden's district of Buraiqa used by UAE forces was also hit by rockets. The coalition transferred UAE officers, Yemeni government officials and military experts out of Aden city after the attacks, according to local sources. In Abu Dhabi, the General Command of the UAE Armed Forces said four Emirati soldiers were killed in the attack. It said 11 soldiers from other Arab countries also died, state news agency WAM reported. One Saudi soldier was among the dead, Saudi Press Agency said. An army officer of the pro-government forces said that the rockets were fired by gunmen of the Shiite Houthi group from outside Aden city, particularly from an area located between neighboring provinces of Lahj and Taiz. Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi, Prime Minister Bahah and the cabinet returned to Aden last month, after almost six months in exile in Saudi Arabia. Hadi fled to Aden in late February after about one month of house arrest and declared that the country's second largest city the temporary capital. The Saudi-led coalition ... (More on P4)...(20)