

UNSC to Hold Emergency Session on Syria

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council (UNSC) is scheduled to have an emergency meeting on Saturday to discuss the current situation in Syria as Russia and the United States are at odds with each other over the airstrikes on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo, diplomats told Xinhua here Friday.

The emergency council meeting is to start at 3:00 p.m. EDT (1900 GMT) on Saturday, and the council members are expected to vote on a draft resolution on Syria, said the diplomats.

Russia, the council's president for this month, said on Friday



a draft resolution demanding an end to air strikes and military flights over Aleppo was unacceptable.

The resolution, also calling for an Aleppo ceasefire, is to be considered Saturday but Vitaly Churkin, the Russian UN ambassador who holds the council presidency for October, said, "I cannot possibly see how we can let this resolution pass."

The council's decision to meet in its emergency session on Saturday came shortly after the UN special envoy for Syria, Staffan de Mistura, called on parties on Friday to halt ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

U.S. Hacking Accusations Groundless, Exploited in Election Campaign: Russia

MOSCOW - The U.S. accusations of "Russian hackers" are groundless and exploited in the country's presidential election campaign, a senior Russian diplomat said Saturday amid escalating tensions between the two powers. On Friday, the U.S. intelligence agencies issued a joint statement claiming that Russia was behind the recent hacking of emails from U.S. political organizations in an attempt to interfere in the 2016 elections. The accusations are just

"dirty tricks" of the incumbent U.S. administration, which lack evidences and are fabricated to "escalate an unprecedented anti-Russia hysteria," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov said in an online statement. Moscow has repeatedly offered to hold bilateral consultations with Washington on fighting against illegal cyberspace activities, he said, but the Russia side "has not received any response yet." On...*(More on P4)...(18)*

U.S. Blames Russia for Hacking Political Groups

WASHINGTON - The United States on Friday blamed Russia for hacking U.S. political sites, an accusation immediately dismissed as "nonsense" by Moscow. Shortly after the White House claimed in a statement that the U.S. intelligence community was "confident" that Russia was behind recent hacking of emails from U.S. persons and institutions, including from U.S. political organizations, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry

Peskov quickly dismissed the U.S. accusation. "Every day there are tens of thousands of attacks on (Russian President Vladimir) Putin's website. Many of the attacks can be traced to the U.S. We're not blaming the White House or Langley every time," Peskov told Russia's Interfax news agency. WikiLeaks in July disclosed a trove of emails hacked from the Demo-



cratic National Committee (DNC) staff's email accounts which appeared to discredit Democratic Party establishment's claim of neutrality in the primary season. ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

UN Chief Welcomes New Market-Based Measure to Curb Aviation Emissions

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday welcomed the first global market-based measure adopted by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) to curb emissions from the aviation industry worldwide. ICAO's new rules will curb carbon emissions from passenger and cargo airplanes as of 2020 through a carbon offset mechanism. Airlines will buy "emission units" generated by projects reducing CO2 emissions in other sectors of the econo-

my. The system will be voluntary from 2021 to 2026 for 65 parties and will be mandatory from 2027 to 2035 for states with larger aviation activities. "The Secretary-General commends the scores of countries, including the world's two largest emitters, China and United States, that have pledged to join the new system at its outset in 2020," said a statement released by Ban's spokesperson. According to the UN, the ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Britain's Labor Party Leader Assembles Front-Bench Team

LONDON - Jeremy Corbyn, leader of Britain's main opposition Labor Party, made more appointments Friday to his front bench team ahead of the Parliament's resumption of business on Monday. A number of Labor MPs handed jobs by Corbyn were among the 64 who resigned in June following a massive fall-out between the leader and his parliamentary group. The walk-outs came after 172 Labor MPs backed a vote of no confidence in Corbyn as leader of the

party. But after the 67-years-old leader kept his job in a second landslide leadership win within a year, Corbyn pleaded for unity. At the party's annual conference in Liverpool last month he held out an olive branch to his estranged MPs. Corbyn described his new shadow cabinet as having the largest num-



ber of black and minority ethnic (BAME) members of a front bench team in British political history. Two of what are called the "great offices of state" are being shadowed for the ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Rural France Protests Arrival of Migrants

IERREFEU, France - French villagers are protesting the arrival of migrants who are being dispersed around the country as the government shuts down the slum-like camp in Calais that has become a flashpoint in Europe's migrant crisis. Three competing rallies are being held Saturday in Pierrefeu in southeast France. The mayor led several hundred people protesting a government proposal to house migrants in an abandoned wing of a psychiatric hospital while they apply for asylum or study other options. Left-wing activists held their own, smaller rally to welcome the migrants. Gendarmes stood watch but the morning gatherings were peaceful. The far-right National Front plans its own anti-migrant protest later in the day. The National Front is urging mayors to resist the Calais relocation plan and is organizing or taking part in protests across the country this month. Resistance to immigration is central to the campaign platform of National Front leader Marine Le Pen in her bid for the French presidency in elections next year. National Front politicians were ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Coalition Airstrikes in Yemen's Capital Kill, Injure Dozens: Witnesses

SANAA - Saudi-led coalition warplanes hit near a mourning ceremony in the Yemeni capital of Sanaa on Saturday, killing and injuring dozens, eyewitnesses told Xinhua. The mourning ceremony was being held for the father of rebel Houthi loyalist Jalal al-Ruwaisan, the acting interior minister, at a big hall in the southern part of Sanaa. Two airstrikes bombed the vicinity of the big hall, and



people fled outside. Eyewitnesses also told Xinhua that a third airstrike hit the hall directly afterwards, where hundreds of people still crowded to offer condolences to the pro-Houthi acting interior minister al-Ruwaisan. "After the first two air attacks, some people fled to ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

840,000 at Risk of Starvation in S. Sudan's Northern Region: WFP

JUBA - About 840,000 people in war-torn South Sudan's Northern Bahr el Ghazal state bordering Sudan are at risk of starvation due to poor rains and loss of purchasing power after over two years of civil war, the World Food Programme (WFP) said Friday. WFP Country Director Joyce Kanyangwa Luma told Xinhua in an interview that the food security situation in the state was dire. "Northern Bahr El Ghazal has seen very high levels of food insecurity unprecedented, about six out of 10 people were classified as severely food insecure, and one in three children are suffering from acute malnutrition," Luma revealed.

"We are targeting about 840,000 people in Northern Bahr el Ghazal, for the first time we had to do airdrops," she said. Unlike other regions like Upper Nile that have been devastated by the war, Northern Bahr el Ghazal has experienced uneasy calm with no major fighting. Forces loyal to sacked First Vice President Riek Machar claim presence in the state. However renewed fighting between Machar's forces and government troops since early July has led to skyrocketing food prices. "People have just lost their purchasing power; even if traders brought in food, people would not be able to buy it," Luma said. (Xinhua)

Turkey Says Putin's Visit will Speed up Normalization Process

ANKARA - Russian President Vladimir Putin's upcoming visit to Turkey will "accelerate" the normalization process between the two countries, the office of the Turkish Presidency said in a statement on Friday. Putin will attend the 23rd World Energy Congress in Istanbul on Oct. 10 upon the invitation of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the office announced. According to the statement, the two leaders will hold a bilateral meeting with the participation of relevant ministers on the sidelines of the congress. "It is expected that this visit, which comes as a follow-up to the two leaders' earlier meetings in St. Petersburg on Aug. 9 and in Hangzhou, China on Sept. 3 on the sidelines of the G20 summit, will contribute to further improving our cooperation and accelerating normalization process between Turkey and Russia," read the statement. The two leaders will discuss bilateral relations including energy cooperation, with a special emphasis ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

S. Korea to Invest \$820m in Iran's Renewable Energy

TEHRAN - South Korea's KTC Co. has signed a deal with Iran's Investment and Economic Development Committee to build a solar plant and a wind farm in Iran, Tehran Times reported on Saturday. The Korean company will finance 220 million U.S. dollars to build a 100-megawatt (MW) wind farm in the southeastern city of Zabol, and 600 million dollars to build a 200-MW solar plant in the southern city of Fasa, the report said. KTC has also agreed to transfer new technologies to the country. "Our goal is to attract investment and transfer technology into the country," Nematollah Toriki, the head of Iran's Investment and Economic Development Committee, said Thursday. "It has been included in the contracts that all equipment and facilities used in the projects should be domestic and Iranian experts and workforce will also participate in the projects," Toriki said. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Beijing Says China to Improve Access for Foreign Companies

BEIJING - China's State Council, or cabinet, said on Saturday the country is committed to improve access for foreign companies in China, as part of "a new round of high-level opening up". According to a statement released on Saturday following a State Council meeting chaired by Premier Li Keqiang, the Chinese government will create an environment for fair competition for foreign firms. "It's important part of pushing forward a new round of high-level opening up," the statement said.

In the future, except for certain sensitive industries in which access for foreign companies is restricted, foreign invest-

ments would only require registration, rather than approval. The statement did not offer details on how the new system would work.

It also said the Chinese government would take further steps to improve market entry for foreign companies.

The State Council's statement comes at a time when the foreign business community in China has become highly critical of the current un-

balanced access for foreign companies in China. Last month, a top European business lobby warned China that it risked a protectionist backlash unless it opened its markets faster to foreign investment. (Reuters)

Nisar Suspends NARDA Officials for 'Dubious Contract'

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Friday suspended some officials of the National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA) for allegedly finalising a dubious contract for hiring a building on exorbitant rent.

The decision was taken after the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) which had been tasked to probe the hiring deal with shady clauses submitted its report to the minister.

Among those suspended is Director General

Tahir Akram. The others are members of the hiring committee. They are allegedly involved in renting a building for Nadra centre in G-6 Markaz (Melody Market) on a rent of Rs4.5 million per month.

The minister had tasked Nadra to identify government lands for establishing its permanent infrastructures. It was decided that in areas where government lands are not available buildings would be taken on rent, but with approval by the Nadra Board. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Raps Global Support for Takfiri-Linked Drug Traffickers

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian diplomat has criticized the international community for lending support to drug traffickers linked to Takfiri terrorist groups, saying such a move is "far negligible."

While international drug traffickers, who have "obvious links to terrorist groups including Takfiri ones and organized crime gangs," are targeting the social fabric of our society, future and young generation, the support provided by the international community to the Islamic Republic of Iran has been "far negligible," Iran's Ambassador and Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Gholam Hossein Dehqani said in an address to the Third Committee of the 71st session of the General Assembly

on International Drug Control.

As a country on the front line of the fight against illicit drugs trafficking, the Islamic Republic of Iran has sustained "huge life and property losses" to prevent the smuggling of narcotics and protect other countries from the evil of addiction, he added.

He noted that some 4,000 Iranian forces have lost their lives while 12,000 others sustained injuries in the country's relentless fight against regional and international armed drug traffickers.

The Iranian diplomat said the country has also spent billions of dollars on equipping the border areas and creating physical barriers along its borders in order to block the drug flow into the country its transit abroad. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan Focuses on Ensuring Reliability of Sea Borders

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan will continue to pay special attention to strengthening material and technical base of naval forces and to ensuring reliability and inviolability of sea borders, said the message from the country's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov.

Berdimuhamedov made the remarks on the occasion of the Day of Naval Forces.

icy and tranquility in the Caspian Sea," said the president's message.

He noted that guaranteeing Turkmenistan's military security in accordance with its military doctrine is an important vector of the state policy.

"Our country will continue to take measures aimed at ensuring the environmental well-being and preserving the biodiversity of the Caspian Sea, rational use of its richest hydrocarbon resources, strengthening the status of the Caspian Sea ...*(More on P4)...(25)*