

# UNSC Adopts Resolution on Migrant Smuggling in Mediterranean

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a resolution aimed at disrupting human trafficking and the smuggling of migrants on the high seas off the coast of Libya. The resolution decides to authorize member states acting nationally or through regional organizations, including the European Union (EU), to inspect vessels that are suspected of being used for migrant smuggling or human trafficking from Libya. It also decides to authorize member states to seize vessels that are confirmed as being used for smuggling or trafficking, and underscores that



further action with regard to such vessels, including disposal, will be taken in accordance with interna-

tional law. These authorizations are for a period of one year from the date of the adoption. The 15-na-

tion council adopted the resolution with 14 voting in favor, and Venezuela abstaining. The resolution

also emphasizes that migrants should be treated with humanity and dignity and their rights be fully re-

spected. In August, the UN Refugee Agency said this year, the number of refugees and migrants crossing the Mediterranean route, including Syria, has exceeded 300,000. Some 2,500 refugees and migrants are estimated to have died or gone missing when they were trying to reach Europe. Venezuelan Ambassador to the UN Rafael Darío Ramírez Carreno said Venezuela abstained because they believe that the refugee and migrant crisis is being tackled in an "erroneous" fashion from "a military approach." Libyan Ambassador Ibrahim O. Dabbashi said ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

## Russia Backs Bigger OSCE Mission in Ukraine

MOSCOW - Russia said on Saturday it wanted to see a bigger European monitoring mission in Ukraine to help oversee withdrawal of mortars, tanks and light artillery under recent agreements. Russia's backing for an expanded Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) mission may be a further sign it wanted to see the peace process succeed, an outcome that could eventually lead to Western sanctions against Russia being eased. "Russia is in favor of increasing the number of observers to the maximum permitted 1000," a Russian Foreign Ministry statement said, adding that the mission presently has 543 staff. "This is especially current in view of the new tasks of fulfilling the agreements of Sept. 29 on withdrawing mortars, tanks and light artillery." The ministry made the statement ahead of Moscow talks on Monday between Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and OSCE Secretary General Lamberto Zannier. The OSCE mission in Ukraine operates mostly in two rebel-controlled regions in the east where, under February's Minsk peace agreements, it is responsible for monitoring a ceasefire between separatist and Ukrainian government forces. Since the February deal the OSCE has reported numerous ceasefire violations by both sides, as well as evidence they had reneged on previous promises to withdraw weapons, illustrating the difficulties of monitoring the ceasefire. However, since a new ceasefire came into force on Sept. 1 there has been a marked reduction in violations and new agreements to reduce tensions. *(Reuters)*

## UAE Think Tank Warns of Yemen's "Annexation" by Iran

DUBAI - A United Arab Emirates (UAE)-based think tank warned of Yemen's "annexation" by Iran, and listed reasons in a report why defeating Shia Houthi rebels in Yemen by the Saudi-led Arab coalition is a must-win battle, UAE state news agency WAM reported on Friday. The report, conducted by the Emirates Center for Strategic Studies and Research (ECSSR) in collaboration with UAE's Ministry of Education, warned that Yemen could turn into a "subservient state of Iran through its Houthi proxies," thus restoring legitimacy as well as security, order and stability in the country is another must-do. In order to make people aware of priorities for Yemen, the ECSSR in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, has lined up a number of lectures to be delivered to students of government schools. The lectures are expected to give them an opportunity to take part in national dialogue and understand the real reasons behind the coalition, WAM reported. The think tank went on to say that preserving Yemen's Arab identity is of utmost importance. "If the country is ruled by Houthis, it will be annexed by Iran, which already harbors plans to obliterate the identity of the whole Arab region." A Houthi control of Yemen will be "a repeat of Lebanon's Hezbollah experience," and turn it into a permanent threat to the Gulf Arab countries, the ECSSR said. The Shiite Houthi group has controlled half of Yemen, including the capital Sanaa, since September 2014. The UAE is part of a Saudi-led coalition comprising nine Arab states to support Yemen's "legitimate" government of President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi. The coalition has been airstrikes on a daily basis the Iranian-backed Shiite Houthi group across Yemen since March 26, when Yemeni President Hadi fled to the Saudi capital Riyadh to take refuge. The coalition said its intervention aims to restore Hadi's authority in the country. *(Xinhua)*

## US Pauses Program to Train and Equip Syrian Rebels

WASHINGTON - The Obama administration announced on Friday it would halt its botched train-and-equip program to build a Syrian rebel force and focus on supporting forces already engaged in the fighting against the Islamic State (IS). According to Christine Warmouth, under secretary of defense for policy, the Obama administration would from now on provide equipment and weapons for existing Syrian rebel groups whose leaders have passed through "the same rigorous vetting process that we have used in the original program." "In terms of the program we originally conceived, we're going to pause that for now," said Warmouth at a White House press call on



the issue. "We've had some significant challenges, so we're going to pause the training that we've been doing where we've recruited specific individual fighters." The change is a recognition of the failure of U.S. President Barack Obama's flagship anti-IS training program which initially seeks to recruit 5,400 Syrian rebels each year for three years. In a testy

congressional hearing in September, General Lloyd Austin, who oversees the war against the IS, told U.S. lawmakers that only "four or five" U.S.-trained Syrian rebels currently remained in battle in Syria and the U.S. military would not reach its goal of training 5,400 Syrian fighters any time soon. Later, the Pentagon corrected ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

## UN SDG "Expensive but Worth it": WB

LIMA - World Bank (WB) President Jim Yong Kim on Friday described the UN's 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as "expensive but worth it". During a panel on answering how the SDGs could be financed at the World Bank-International Monetary Fund (IMF) Annual Meetings in Lima, Kim said that accomplishing the SDGs would cost trillions of U.S. dollars. "They are incredibly ambitious. They should make the world humble due to their scope," he said. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said that her institution would help countries find the money to finance the SDGs. "The IMF can help countries with economic stability. We can look at issues like climate change and gender equality, as women can make a huge difference to the



economy," she explained. "We can also provide macro-critical advice. 5.4 trillion dollars are being wasted for fossil fuel subsidies. All that money can be spent on something else," added Lagarde. Kim also explained that the SDGs have taken an attitude to financing what was missing from the previous Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). "For the MDGs, we did not talk about financing until two years after they were passed. But two

years before the SDGs were passed, UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon came to the World Bank, the IMF and multilateral development banks and asked us to think creatively about how to fund the SDGs," explained Kim. This process led these institutions to issue a document, named "From Billions to Trillions", in which they outlined new ways of increasing funding for climate change. *(Xinhua)*

## Lebanon Receives New U.S. Military Aid

BEIRUT - Lebanese army received on Friday a new shipment of Hellfire missiles and artillery munitions in assistance from the United States, the U.S. embassy said in a statement. "Ambassador David Hale visited Beirut Airbase this morning to inspect America's latest delivery of Hellfire missiles and artillery munitions to the Lebanese Armed Forces (LAF)" the statement said. The shipment included 50 Hellfire air-to-ground missiles and 560 artillery rounds, including some precision munitions, the statement revealed. "This represents 8.6 million U.S. dollars worth of U.S. security assistance to Lebanon and boosts the LAF's ability to secure Lebanon's borders against violent extremists," the embassy said. The Hellfire air-to-ground missiles are used on Cessna Caravan aircraft previously delivered to the military by Washington. The missiles "allow the LAF to strike confirmed insurgent positions without exposing themselves to return fire," the embassy explained. "The other artillery rounds include laser guided projectiles, the first munition of its kind in the LAF's arsenal, which will provide the LAF with a precision-strike capability at significant stand-off ranges" it said. *(Xinhua)*

## Europe Must Help Syrians Restore Peace to Tackle Refugee Crisis: Gusenbauer

RHODES - Facing a mounting refugee crisis, Europe should focus on assisting Syrians to restore peace rather than cultivating the illusion that the problem can be addressed by providing shelter to incoming refugees across the continent, former Austrian Chancellor Alfred Gusenbauer told Xinhua in an interview on Friday. Gusenbauer outlined his views on the pressing challenge when delivering a speech during the opening session of the 13th annual World Public Forum "Dialogue of Civilizations" (Rhodes Forum) which opened on Friday on the Greek island. The repercussions of the four-year conflict in Syria that have reached the doorstep of Europe this year dominated discussions among 700 at-



tendees from all over the world at the premiere of the three-day event. Gusenbauer, as co-chairman of the forum, told Xinhua that Europe and the international community should get involved in the root of the crisis in Syria to solve the refugee influx issue. He suggested as a first step that the region establish security zones so that people would not have to travel thousands of miles seeking shelter. As well, he urged "all willing

## Syrian Army Kills 125 Militants in Hama

DAMASCUS - At least 125 fighters from the Islamic State (IS) and al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front were killed during a wide-scale offensive of the Syrian army in the central province of Hama on Saturday, local media reported.

A number of rocket launchers were also destroyed in the operations, which were backed by the Syrian and Russian airstrikes, the report said. The air forces carried out intense strikes against the IS and Nusra Front in the towns of Atshan and Tama in Hama province, neighboring the Idlib province, where the Nusra militants control large swathes of territories.

A military source told Xinhua that the Russian air campaign targeted all areas where militant groups are located, particularly IS positions.

He said the airstrikes have achieved "direct results," and caused "huge losses" on the rebels. "We are very optimistic that this coalition (Russian, Syrian) is a serious step toward eradicating terrorism from its roots," he said.

On Friday, the Syrian army recaptured Bahsa town after killing and wounding 104 militants. The Syrian army started Wednesday military operations against rebel-held areas in Hama with support of the Russian and Syria air forces, aiming to secure the road between Hama and the central province of Homs. *(Xinhua)*

## Neighbor News

### Anti-Graft Drive an Ongoing Fight in China

BEIJING - Despite the investigation and prosecution of hundreds of officials nationwide, China's commitment to purging corruption is showing no signs of letting up.

The country's anti-graft watchdog has ousted corrupt officials all the way from low-level "flies" to high-ranking "tigers" since the current leadership took office in late 2012 and declared a high-profile anti-graft crackdown. Tang Dongning, former deputy head of the Science and Technology Daily, is the latest official netted by the campaign. He was expelled from the Communist Party of China (CPC) and removed from his post on Friday for going AWOL abroad and obtaining permanent residency in the UK without approval from the authorities, according to a statement released by the CPC Central Commission for Discipline In-

spection (CCDI). Tang's case was not the only one to be announced by the CCDI, which on Wednesday announced that Su Shulin, governor of east China's Fujian Province, was being investigated for suspected "serious disciplinary offenses."

Meanwhile, local anti-graft bodies continue to name corrupt officials. Nearly 200 low-level officials involved in 163 cases were punished last month for embezzlement of public funds, use of public funds for banquets, accepting bribes, and holding lavish banquets, among other violations.

It has been a routine practice to expose decadent Party members involved in cases related to bureaucracy, formalism, extravagance and other undesirable work and life styles on a monthly basis since April 2014. *(Xinhua)*

### Iran Says Cooperating with Russia in Fight Against Daesh

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says the Islamic Republic is cooperating with Russia in the battle against terrorism as Moscow intensifies its aerial campaign against the positions of Daesh Takfiri terrorists in Syria. "Iran, Russia and Iraq are Syria's friends and allies. We do not deny cooperation and consultation between Iran, Russia, Syria and Iraq [in fighting terror]," said Ali Akbar Velayati, a top adviser to Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, on Saturday. He made the remarks in an interview with Iran's Arabic-language news channel, al-Alam. On September

30, Russia started its military campaign against terrorists in Syria upon a request by the government in Damascus, after Russia's upper house of parliament granted President Vladimir Putin authorization to use military force in the Arab country.

Velayati, who is also the president of the Center for Strategic Research of Iran's Expediency Council, described the Syrian government as the "backbone" of resistance, saying the foreign-backed militancy in the Arab country which flared up in March 2011 has been aimed at breaking the anti-Israel resistance front. *(PressTV)*

### Five Al-Qaeda Terrorists Killed in Sheikhpura 'Encounter'

SHEIKHPURA - At least five suspected terrorists said to be affiliated with Al-Qaeda were killed in an alleged exchange of fire with police personnel in Punjab's Sheikhpura district on Saturday. "At around 2am, police personnel escorted a prisoner Kashif alias Kashi from Lahore to a terrorists hideout in Sheikhpura, in order to recover an arms cache," said a spokesman from Counter-Terrorism Department (CTD) Punjab. The

spokesman added that as soon as the police personnel along with the escorted prisoner reached a railway crossing within the limits of Factory area police station, they came under attack by seven to eight suspected militants. "Five terrorists including Kashif were killed in retaliatory firing by police personnel while the others managed to flee taking advantage of to darkness", said the CTD spokesman. *(Agencies)*

### OSCE Office in Tajikistan Trains Border Guards on Patrol Leadership Course

BISHKEK - border3 An OSCE-organized four-week training course on patrolling and leadership skills for 25 officers from the Tajik Border Guard concluded yesterday in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The participants, ranked between warrant officer and captain, mainly came from the Tajik green border detachments with Afghanistan and two of them were supported for conducting training activities and will be involved as trainers in the future advance courses on patrolling and leadership. The training course, which took place at the Gissar Training Center, covered planning and conducting observation missions with the use of topographical maps, satellite imagery and other

tools, as well as developing patrol planning and management techniques. The participants also improved their skills in reporting and analysis, mountaineering and first aid in the field and learnt about usage of binoculars, night vision goggles, maps and land navigation. Common tactical equipment and uniform were given to each student during the course. "Building the capacities of Tajikistan's border guards plays a crucial role in strengthening security at the border with neighboring countries, and we remain dedicated to supporting such efforts," said Senior Executive Officer at the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, Sean McGreevy. *(AKIpress)*