

# India, Russia Ink 16 Pacts, Including 2 Key Defense Deals

NEW DELHI - India and Russia Saturday inked 16 pacts, including two key defense agreements, after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin on the sidelines of the 8th BRICS Summit in the western state of Goa. One of the two key defense deals included the sealing of a five billion U.S. dollars pact to procure Russia's most advanced anti-aircraft defence system -- S 400 Triumph, which will provide India a ballistic missile shield. This system can track some 300 targets and shoot down around three dozen simultaneously



over a range of 400 kilometres. The radars are so powerful that they can even detect stealth aircraft of enemy countries. Under the other defense deal, India will initially acquire and subsequently produce Russian Kamov Ka-226 T light utility helicopters. Both India and Russia have also decided to conduct a military conference every year. Other agreements across multiple sectors included developing smart cities in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and northern state of Haryana, and for developing transport logistics systems for cities in these two states. (Xinhua)

## Saudi Coalition Attack on Yemen Funeral based on Bad Information: Investigation

RIYADH - The Saudi-led coalition attacked a funeral in Yemen after receiving incorrect information that armed Houthis leaders were in the area, an investigative body set up by the coalition said on Saturday. The Saudi-led campaign in Yemen has come under severe criticism since last Saturday's air strike hit the funeral gathering in the Yemeni capital Sanaa, killing 140 people according to one U.N. estimate and 82 according to the Houthis. Mourners killed in

the attack included some of Yemen's top political and security officials, outraging Yemeni society and potentially galvanizing powerful tribes to join the Houthis in opposing a Saudi-backed exiled government. "A party affiliated to the Yemeni Presidency of the General Chief of Staff wrongly passed information that there was a gathering of armed Houthi leaders in a known location in Sanaa, and insisted ... (More on P4)...(16)

## Erdogan Says Iraq Cannot Handle Mosul Assault Alone

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Saturday that Iraq could not deal alone with driving Islamic State from the city of Mosul and that the presence of Turkish forces in a nearby military camp was an insurance against attacks on Turkey. Turkey has been locked in a row with Iraq's central government about the presence of Turkish troops at the Bashiqa camp in northern Iraq, and over who should take

part in the planned U.S.-backed assault on Mosul. "We won't let Mosul be given to Daesh (Islamic State) or any other terrorist organization. They say Iraq's central government needs to approve this but the Iraqi central government should first deal with their own problems," Erdogan said. "Why did you let Daesh enter Iraq, why did you let Daesh enter Mosul?"



They were almost going to come to Baghdad, where are you, the central government of Iraq?" he said in a speech at a ceremony in the Black Sea town of Rize, broadcast live ... (More on P4)...(17)

## Turkey-Backed Forces Attack IS Stronghold in Syria

BEIRUT - Syrian opposition fighters backed by Turkish airstrikes launched an offensive Saturday to try to capture Dabiq from the Islamic State group, which assigns special status to the northern Syrian town in its ideology and propaganda. The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said the attack was preceded by intense shelling. It said that Turkey-backed opposition fighters captured three nearby villages, encircling Dabiq and cutting off all supply routes.

Turkey sent troops and tanks into northern Syria in August to help opposition forces recapture IS strongholds and curb the advance of a U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish militia, which Ankara views as an extension of Turkey's outlawed Kurdish separatists. Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, speaking in Rize on the Black Sea coast, said "we entered Jarablus, and then al-Rai, and now we are moving where? To Dabiq. We will declare a terror-free ... (More on P4)...(18)

## Proper Hand Washing Pivotal to Preventing Deadly Diseases: UNICEF

GENEVA - As the world prepares to mark global hand washing day, the UN children's fund (UNICEF) urged children, families and communities across the world to make hand washing with soap a priority to prevent the onset of potentially fatal diseases. "Every year, 1.4 million children are dying from largely preventable diseases like pneumonia and diarrhea," UNICEF's global head of water, sanitation and hygiene Sanjay Wijesekera said in a statement. "These are staggering

numbers, but they could be greatly reduced by working with children and families to adopt a very straightforward solution: hand washing," he added. According to estimates, hand washing with soap before meals and after going to the toilet could reduce the risk of contracting diarrheal infections by 40 percent, with evidence also suggesting



that proper hand washing could reduce the pneumonia infection rate among children by around 25 percent. Some 300,000 children under the age of five died ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Iraq Attacks Kill 46, including Suicide Bombing

BAGHDAD - Attacks killed at least 46 people in Iraq on Saturday, including a suicide bombing claimed by the Islamic State group that was the deadliest to hit Baghdad in months. The violence comes as Iraqi forces prepare for an operation to retake Mosul, the last IS-held city in the country -- a key battle, but one that will not end the threat of attacks such as those carried out on Saturday. In the deadliest attack, a suicide bomber targeted a funeral tent where mourners were gathered to pay their respects in the Shiite-majority Shaab area of north Baghdad, killing at least 34 people and wounding at least 36, officials said. IS issued an online statement claiming the attack, saying it was carried out by a man who detonated an explosive vest. A witness said the bomber entered the funeral tent and blew himself up as lunch was being served. "I saw with my eyes 20 martyrs on the ground," the witness said. Blood stained the ground at the scene of the attack, which was littered with the ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Saudi Oil Deficit Exposed after US Yemen Strikes

RIYADH - While China and the Fed grabbed all the headlines this week, it's noteworthy that the United States lobbed some missiles at targets in Yemen. The U.S. said it responded to provocation after rebels fired on U.S. warships, while many Yemenis saw the attacks as the manifestation of "the hidden hand behind Saudi Arabia's punishing air war." The New York Times reports. The Economist declared



"the carnage in Yemen is at last attracting the world's attention," adding: "Over 9,000 people have died in Yemen since Shia rebels, the Houthis, forced

## Egypt Temporarily Reopens Rafah Border Crossing with Gaza

GAZA - Egypt on Saturday temporarily reopened Rafah border crossing with the Gaza Strip, the coastal enclave that Islamic Hamas movement rules, an official statement said. The Hamas-run corporation for crossings and borders said in press statement that the crossing will be partially reopened for three days, then will be closed for two days and then will be reopened for another four days. "Several buses full of passengers left the Palestinian side of the crossing on the borders between southern Gaza Strip and Egypt, and crossed the borders to the Egyptian side of the crossing," said the statement.

The crossing of Rafah was reopened to allow stranded Palestinians to travel in both directions, mainly patients, students, businessmen and Palestinians holding dual nationalities. Early on Saturday morning, thousands of people gathered outside the crossing waiting to get on the busses and cross to the Egyptian side. Hamas security forces were deployed outside the crossing to ensure security. Last time Egypt reopened the crossing of Rafah in both directions was on Sept. 3 for three days. Reopening the crossing had recently witnesses ... (More on P4)...(23)

## WHO Calls for \$9m for Health Operations in Haiti

GENEVA - The World Health Organization (WHO) on Friday appealed for 9 million U.S. dollars to carry out response operations in Haiti after Hurricane Matthew devastated the southwestern part of the country. Of the more than 2.1 million Haitians who have been affected by Hurricane Matthew, there are an estimated 750,000 persons in urgent need of humanitarian assistance, including more than 175, 500 who are living in 224 temporary shelters, according to official reports from the Ministry of Interior of Haiti. "WHO expects an impor-

tant upsurge in cholera cases after Hurricane Matthew, given the context of flooding and the storm's impact on water and sanitation infrastructure. So far, 75 percent of the cholera treatment facilities that have been assessed were destroyed or damaged in the two most affected departments. In Grand Anse province for instance, 50 percent of the health facilities suffered damages," Fadela Chaib, WHO spokeswoman told press Friday. She highlighted that the impact of the hurricane has increased the already high risk ... (More on P4)...(22)

## UNSC Voices "Deep Concern" over Political Situation in Burundi

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Friday expressed its "deep concern over the political situation and the lack of progress in implementing resolution 2303 (2016)" in Burundi, and called on States in the region to contribute to a peaceful solution to the crisis in the east African country. The 15-nation council, in a press statement issued here, reiterated its demand

that "all sides in Burundi refrain from any action that would threaten peace and stability in the country" or undermine the inter-Burundian dialogue. "In that regard, they stressed the utmost importance of respecting the Constitution as well as the letter and spirit of the Arusha Agreement, which has helped to sustain a decade of peace in Burundi," it ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Neighbor News

### Chinese VP Stresses Innovation, Entrepreneurship in Colleges

WUHAN - Chinese Vice Premier Liu Yandong has called for further efforts to boost innovation and entrepreneurship education in colleges during an inspection tour in central China's Hubei Province. On Friday, the final of the second "Internet Plus" Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition for College Students was held in Wuhan, the provincial capital of Hubei, in which 550,000 students from more than 2,100 colleges took part. While meeting with the participants and the judges, Liu said higher education should be reformed to enhance innovation and entrepreneurship spirits, abilities and practices

among college students. Liu urged Chinese universities to cooperate with enterprises and encourage social capital in education and talent training to adapt to the new economic and technological development. The governments should offer favorable conditions to prepare students for innovation and entrepreneurship, Liu added. During her tour in Hubei, Liu also visited Huazhong University of Science and Technology and Wuhan University, stressing the integration of talent training, scientific research, public services as well as the inheritance and creation of Chinese culture in higher education. (Xinhua)

### Iran Urges End to Arms Sales to S. Arabia, Israel



TEHRAN - Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN has warned against continued sales of weapons to Saudi Arabia and Israel, which are in violation of other territories as well as humanitarian laws. "We are deeply concerned about the destabilizing repercussions of the continual entry and export of such weaponry into the region, especially into Saudi Arabia and the Zionist regime of Israel," Gholam-Hossein Dehqani said. He said both Saudi Arabia and Israel are "engaged in aggression and violation against other countries and in flouting their commitments to in-

ternational humanitarian laws." Dehqani was speaking at the annual meeting of the United Nations General Assembly's Disarmament and International Security Committee at the world body's headquarters in New York, IRNA reported on Saturday. He said the Saudi regime was using "British and American bombs" against vital Yemeni infrastructure. Saudi Arabia has been pounding Yemen since March 2015 in an unsuccessful attempt to reinstall a former ally as president. The war has killed more than 10,000, according to UN figures in August. (Press tv)

### Mengal Wants all CPEC Accords Made Public

GWADAR - All accords signed by the federal government regarding Gwadar and the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) should be made public, said Sardar Akhtar Jan Mengal, chief of the Balochistan National Party-Mengal (BNP-M), on Thursday evening. He added that it was important to pass legislation which would protect the people of Balochistan and "not let them become a minority in the port city of Gwadar". Speaking at a public meeting at the Sorag Dil ground in Gwadar, the party chief said that BNP-M was not against development but would

resist any development that would deny the rights of the residents of Gwadar "and convert their majority into a minority". The party's secretary general Senator Dr Jahanzeb Khan Jamaldini, MNA Sayed Essa Noori, MPA Hammal Kalmati and Dr Aziz Baloch also spoke at the public gathering which was largely attended by people from Turbat, Pasi, Khuzdar, Kalat, Hub and parts of Gwadar district. Sardar Mengal said that his party would not compromise on the rights of the Baloch people and would not hesitate to make sacrifices to protect their honour. (Monitoring Desk)

### Turkmenistan Establishes Diplomatic Relations with Bahamas

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan and the Commonwealth of the Bahamas have signed a joint communiqué on establishing diplomatic relations, Turkmen foreign ministry has said. The signing ceremony took place at the permanent representative office

of Turkmenistan in New York. During the ceremony, the representatives of both countries confirmed their interest in strengthening the friendly relations and developing the bilateral political, economic and cultural cooperation. (Trend)