

Trump Bows to Pressure, Says he'll Accept 'Clear Election Result'

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump was forced Thursday to admit he would accept "clear" results of the Nov. 8 presidential election, after coming under intense criticism when he refused to endorse the legitimacy of American elections in his third and final debate with Hillary Clinton.

"Of course, I would accept a clear election result, but I would also reserve my right to contest or file a legal challenge in the case of a questionable result, right?" Trump told supporters at a rally in Delaware, Ohio. Trump claimed he was



asked "an unprecedented question" Wednesday night by moderator Chris

Wallace of Fox News. He also tried to reframe the actual question Wal-

lace asked, claiming he'd been pressed to waive his "right to a legal challenge

or a recount" like the one mounted by Democrat Al Gore in 2000.

"In effect, I'm being asked to waive centuries of legal precedent designed to protect the voters," Trump said. But Wallace did not ask Trump to waive any right to a challenge in the event the election turned out to be close. Wallace simply asked whether Trump would accept the election results, precisely because Trump has been talking for days about his belief that the election will be marred by widespread voter fraud. He has offered no evidence besides exaggerated speculation for this claim, which has been widely rejected by fact-checkers. (Reuters)

No Military Solution to Syrian Crisis: UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Thursday that there is no military solution to the Syrian crisis, while welcoming a unilateral ceasefire announced by Russia in Syria's northern city of Aleppo.

Ban told the UN General Assembly that the humanitarian pause will pave the way for the implementation of the UN's medical evacuation plan in Aleppo where "the conflict continues to reach new and awful depths."

"But this is the bare minimum. It is far from enough. We need full humanitarian access to eastern Aleppo," said Ban.

According to Ban, nearly 500 people have been killed and 2,000 injured in eastern Aleppo since Sept. 23 when the most sustained and intensive aerial bombardment be-



gan. He also noted that the eastern Aleppo has been besieged and no UN

convoy has entered since July. "Food rations will run out by the end of the ... (More on P4)...(19)

EU Leaders Call for Extension of Ceasefire in Aleppo

BRUSSELS - Leaders from 28 member states of the European Union (EU) early Friday called for an extension of the temporary ceasefire in the Syrian city of Aleppo, stressing that "everything should be done" to achieve it.

A two-day EU summit kicked off on Thursday afternoon, with three main tasks on the agenda, namely how to further address the migration crisis, seeking solutions to trade-related issues and discussing ties with Russia. The EU leaders "held a

strategic policy debate on relations with Russia," according to a summary document released after the first day's meeting. Accusing Russia's strategy of attempting to weaken the EU, European Council President Donald Tusk told a news conference that the EU and its member states will continue in their efforts to put pressure on Russia. As to the situation in the war-torn Aleppo, the EU leaders called for an immediate cessation of... (More on P4)...(20)

Russia Summons Belgian Ambassador over Alleged Airstrikes on Syrian Civilians

MOSCOW - The Russian Foreign Ministry on Friday summoned the Belgian ambassador to Moscow over the alleged airstrikes by Belgian warplanes that killed six civilians in the Syrian city of Aleppo.

The Russian side showed the ambassador evidence of the involvement of Belgian planes in the deadly attacks, the ministry said in a statement.

The Russian military said Tuesday that two F-16 fighter jets of the Belgian air force were detected

in an attack against the village of Hassajek near Aleppo, which left six Syrian civilians dead and at least four wounded.

The Belgian Defense Ministry formally denied the accusation, saying that the country's F-16 fighters did not perform flights over the mentioned area during the strike. The Russian Defense Ministry said Thursday that it would unveil the flight route details of the fighter jets. Moscow said it has been ... (More on P4)...(21)

Putin Backs Armed OSCE Mission to East Ukraine

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin backs an armed OSCE mission to war-torn eastern Ukraine, the Kremlin said Thursday, in spite of objections by pro-Moscow rebels.

"Putin agreed to the deployment of such a mission during the talks," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters, referring to Wednesday's four-way talks on the conflict with the leaders of Germany, France and Ukraine.

"There is an understanding on the positive nature of the deployment of such



a mission, but it needs to be worked out in the framework of the OSCE." The OSCE's Special Monitoring Mission (SMM)

has 580 unarmed staff based in the conflict zone and has had its mandate extended to the end of March 2017.

Despite Putin's endorsement of armed OSCE observers, German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said ... (More on P4)...(22)

Russian Spacecraft Successfully Docks with ISS

MOSCOW - Russia's Soyuz MS-02 spacecraft successfully docked with the International Space Station (ISS) on Friday, the Russian state space corporation Roscosmos said. The three crew members, the two Russian cosmonauts Sergey Ryzhikov and Andrey Borisenko, as well as U.S. astronaut Shane Kimbrough, are expected to move to the space station in the next several hours, it said. The undocking of the spacecraft with the previous ISS crew, Anatoly Ivanishin from Russia, U.S. astronaut Kathleen Rubins and Takuya Onishi from Japan, is scheduled for Oct. 30 with landing planned for the same day, Roscosmos said. Russia on ... (More on P4)...(23)

EU Fails to Break Impasse over Trade Pact with Canada

BRUSSELS - The European Union failed to finalize a massive free trade deal with Canada by a self-imposed deadline on Friday, with the tiny Belgian region that's holding up the pact saying its objections had not been sufficiently addressed.

Paul Magnette, the president of Wallonia, spent hours talking with EU officials and Canadian International Trade Minister Chrystia Freeland to find a compromise by the end of a two-day summit in Brussels.

Talks will continue as the deal needs unanimity within the EU, and Belgium in turn needs unanimity among its regions. The disagreement has pitted Wallonia, a region of 3.5 million people that's smaller than New Jersey, ... (More on P4)...(25)

Uncertainties Throw UN Operations in Eastern Aleppo in Limbo

GENEVA - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said Friday that the UN had not yet received the necessary safety guarantees allowing humanitarian operations to be carried out in east Aleppo after a Russia-backed unilateral ceasefire started on Thursday.

"The necessary conditions are not in place. We need adherence to security assurances and we need necessary facilitation," OCHA spokesman Jens Laerke said. "This is an astronomically difficult operation. We



need security assurances from all sides, plus facilitation from all parties. That is currently not at a level where we can proceed," he added. The UN plans to gain access to rebel-held east Alep-

po for 11 hours per day for four consecutive days to evacuate the injured and sick while providing aid items to the 275,000 civilians living there. According to OCHA, the ... (More on P4)...(24)

Lavrov, Kerry Discuss Humanitarian Pause in Syria's Aleppo over Phone

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the humanitarian pause in airstrikes on the besieged Syrian city of Aleppo over phone on Thursday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said.

Russia and Syria on Monday announced a humanitarian truce from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. local time (0500 GMT to 1300 GMT) on Thursday in rebel-held areas of Aleppo, and decided on Wednesday to extend it for another three hours.

The truce was aimed at ensuring the safe exit of civilians and militants, as well as the wounded and the sick from the contested city.

Lavrov said militants in eastern Aleppo have tried to disrupt the pause and prevented civilians from leaving, while urging the U.S. side to fulfill its promise to separate the "moderate" oppositions from terrorist groups there, the ministry said in an online statement. He added that Russian and Syrian air ... (More on P4)...(26)

1 in 3 Syrian Schools Shut as Fighting Rages: UNICEF



GENEVA - With 33 percent of Syrian schools unable to function and 1.7 million children currently out of school, the UN children's fund (UNICEF) warned Friday that another 1.3 million young students may be forced to drop out amid protracted violence and reigning insecurity.

"In Syria, children are risking death to go to school. In the past two weeks, nine schoolchildren, aged as young as five, lost their lives in two separate attacks on or near schools," UNICEF official Hanaa Singer said in a statement.

"School should not be a death trap. It should be a place where children are protected and able to learn, grow, and develop their skills," she added.

According to UNICEF, more than 4,000 attacks on schools have been documented since violence kicked off in March 2011. Since then, some 151,000 teachers have left the education system because of the conflict, UNICEF spokesman Christophe Bouliera said.

Together with forced displacements, poverty and a strained education system, fighting between warring factions continues to hamper access to schools for too many Syrian children, UNICEF said. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Premier Li Expects Early Conclusion of China-U.S. Investment Treaty Negotiations

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Thursday called on China and the United States to make efforts for an early conclusion of their bilateral investment treaty (BIT) negotiations.

China and the United States have agreed to BIT talks on the basis of pre-establishment national treatment (PENT) plus a negative list approach. It is the first time that China has adopted the model in BIT talks with foreign countries, Li said, noting that this showed the importance China attaches to BIT talks.

PENT means that foreign investors and their investments will be accorded national treatment in the pre-establishment phase

of their businesses.

Li told visiting former U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson at the Diaoyutai State Guest House that through the BIT talks, both sides sent a positive signal to the world that China and the United States support trade and investment facilitation and liberalization.

China hopes that the two sides will work flexibly and pragmatically to make the talks produce positive results and reach a high-level investment treaty, so as to realize mutual benefits, Li said.

China and the United States started BIT negotiations in 2008.

Speaking highly of the ... (More on P4)...(27)

Iran Respects Neighbors' Territorial Integrity: Foreign Ministry

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says the Islamic Republic's regional policies are rooted in "the sublime Islamic and humanitarian values and teachings," which place a high priority on the security and stability of neighboring countries, particularly the Muslim ones.

"Sectarianism, tribalism and fomenting religious tensions have never had a place in the Islamic Republic of Iran's principled regional and international policies," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Thursday night.

He stressed that "Tehran's spiritual influence stems from its goodwill

and respect for the independence and territorial integrity of neighboring countries - [a fact] that should not be difficult for some observers to comprehend."

"It is imperative that regional countries understand the region's sensitive and critical situation, and move towards ending tensions and conflicts," Qassemi pointed out.

The Iranian official's remarks came in response to latest statements by Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus concerning Iran's religious influence in Iraq. (Presstv)

SC Sets Nov. 1 Date for Panamagate Hearing against Nawaz, others

ISLAMABAD - The Supreme Court on Friday changed the date of a hearing on the Panamagate petitions filed against Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, his family members and others by the Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) to Nov. 1, Dawn-News reported.

The case had been adjourned for two weeks after a hearing on Thursday. The new date falls just a day before the PTI's scheduled 'lockdown' of Islamabad on Nov. 2.

A three-member bench of the apex court will hear all five petitions filed by the concerned parties to bring their National Identity Cards with them for the hearing. The SC issued notices to Prime

Minister Nawaz, Maryam Nawaz, Hassan Nawaz, Hussain Nawaz, Capt (R) Safdar, Finance Minister Ishaq Dar, director general Federal Investigation Agency, chairman Federal Board of Revenue, and the Attorney General Ahshtar Ausaf Ali during Thursday's hearing. The SC bench comprising Chief Justice Anwar Zaheer Jamali, Justice Ijazul Ahsan and Justice Khilji Arif Hussain had taken up petitions seeking the disqualification of the PM and his family members filed by the PTI, Jamaat-i-Islami (JI), Barrister Zafar-ullah Khan of Watan Party, AML chief Sheikh Rashid Ahmed and Advocate Asad on Thursday. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan, China Considering Space Co-Op Opportunities

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan and China are considering cooperation opportunities in the field of space research, the Turkmen government said in a message.

"The National Space Agency under the president of Turkmenistan and the China National Space Administration have a huge potential for cooperation," the message said.

According to the message, the Turkmen delegation is taking part in

the 4th China-Central Asia Cooperation Forum, which opened in Chengdu city, the capital of China's Sichuan province October 19.

Over a hundred spacecraft and satellites were launched from Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan, the message said.

Earlier, it was reported that Turkmenistan is building the second space satellite. TurkmenAlem 52°E satellite was ... (More on P4)...(28)