

# IS Trickling out of Mosul as Losses Mount: US General

BAGHDAD - Islamic State group fighters are trickling out of Iraq's Mosul as the jihadists suffer heavy casualties, the general overseeing American military operations in the region told AFP on Thursday.

Army General Joseph Votel, head of the US military's Central Command, said groups of half a dozen or fewer IS fighters have been seen slipping out of the city as US-backed Iraqi and Kurdish peshmerga forces close in.

Some of them dump weapons and try to look like civilians, making it hard for coalition drones and planes to track them,



Votel said, but some toward Raqa, the IS group's Syria stronghold. "They don't have uniforms, so it is a little bit of a challenge. These aren't big groups, they

aren't moving in military formations," the four-star general said, speaking from an undisclosed military base in Southwest Asia.

"There are some that will get away, and I think that happens in a lot of cases. Nothing is 100 percent, but in this case we are doing a pretty good job."

Between 800 and 900 jihadists have been killed in and around Mosul since the Iraqi-led operation to recapture the city began 10 days ago, he added.

Earlier US estimates had put the total population of IS fighters in Mosul itself at between 3,500 and 5,000. (AFP)

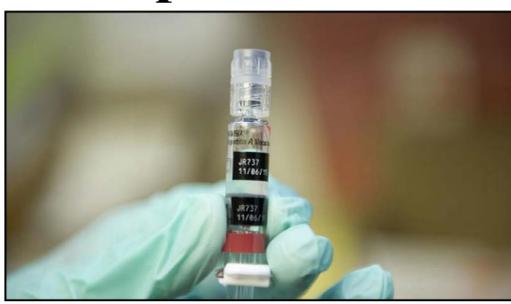
## Over 1 Million in Low and Middle Income Countries Treated with New Cure for Hepatitis C: UN

UNITED NATIONS - Over one million people in low-and middle-income countries have been treated with a revolutionary new cure for hepatitis C since its introduction two years ago, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here Thursday, quoting a report released by the World Health Organization (WHO).

The report, "Global Report on Access to Hepatitis C Treatment: Focus on Overcoming Barriers," was

issued by the UN health agency earlier on Thursday. It said that the new medicines have a cure rate of more than 95 percent, fewer side effects than previously available therapies, and can completely cure the disease within three months.

When Direct Acting Antivirals (DAAs) were first approved for hepatitis C treatment in 2013, there



were widespread fears that their high price -- some 85,000 U.S. dollars -- would put them out of reach for

the more than 80 million people with chronic hepatitis C infections worldwide... (More on P4)... (20)

## EU Wants New Date Set for Signing CETA as Belgian Agreement Reached

BRUSSELS - Brussels wanted to set a new date for signing CETA, a landmark free trade deal between the European Union (EU) and Canada, as Belgian parliaments finally agreed to approve it on Thursday.

"Finally white smoke on CETA. Belgian agreement reached. Hope a date can be set soon for the EU and Canada to sign the deal," the EU Trade Commissioner Cecilia Malmstrom tweeted Thursday noon. The remarks came shortly after Belgian Prime Min-

ister Charles Michel announced that all Belgian parliaments, after difficult negotiations, agreed to approve the deal by Friday midnight.

"Important step for EU and Canada," Michel commented on his twitter account.

The EU and Canada were scheduled to sign CETA in Brussels on Thursday but the Canadian side has to postpone the trip as Belgian parliaments remained deadlock on the deal until early Thursday. (Xinhua)

## Syrian Army Foils Major Rebel Offensive in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian government forces and allied fighters have fully repelled a wide-scale offensive by at least 12 rebel groups in the northern city of Aleppo on Friday, a military source told Xinhua.

The Syrian army and the Lebanese Hezbollah group fully thwarted the rebel offensive, which was unleashed earlier on Friday on all fronts in Aleppo city, the source said on condition of anonymity.

At least 12 rebel groups, including ultra-radical ones, mounted the wide-

scale offensive on government forces positions in Aleppo, with the aim of breaking the Syrian army's siege on rebel-held areas in the eastern side of Aleppo city, the source said.

The attack targeted government forces' positions in western Aleppo, and the rebels remotely detonated at least two car bombs near military positions at the western gate of Aleppo city, the source said.

The source, who is close to Hezbollah, said rebels' reports about capturing... (More on P4)... (21)

## Russia, Syria, Iran Vow to Defend Intra-Syria Talks for Political Settlement

MOSCOW - Top diplomats of Russia, Syria and Iran on Friday vowed to defend the revival of intra-Syria talks in order to facilitate a political solution to the protracted crisis in the war-torn Middle East country.

"We agreed to return to the cessation of hostilities regime and defend the urgent start of intra-Syria talks, while solving issues of improving the humanitarian situation there," Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told a joint briefing after a trilateral meeting with his Syr-

ian and Iranian counterparts in Moscow.

All the three parties reaffirmed that there is no alternative to the settlement of the Syria crisis by political and diplomatic means.

"We believe that the Syria settlement is only possible with the help of a dialogue between different Syrian groups," said Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad



Javad Zarif. "There is no military solution to it."

Russia and Iran confirmed their support for sovereignty, unity and territorial

integrity of Syria, as well as their readiness to jointly fight terrorists and restore peace in the country, Lavrov... (More on P4)... (22)

## Turkey Suspends 460 Security Personnel in Coup Probe

ANKARA - Turkish authorities discharged 460 personnel from the army, navy, gendarmerie and coast guard on Friday, a day before the national day of the country.

Interior Ministry announced that 153 personnel were sacked from the Gendarmerie and 112 from the Coast Guard Command, while the Defense Ministry said Turkey's land and naval forces dismissed 195 personnel.

The suspensions came as part of an investigation into the movement of the U.S.-based Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen, who Ankara accuses of being behind the failed July 15 military coup. Both ministries said the probe found links... (More on P4)... (23)

## Trump Slams Obamacare, But it May not Help Him So Close to Election Day

WASHINGTON - Two weeks before the Election Day, U.S. Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump is bashing President Barack Obama's controversial health-care overhaul, but experts say this may not impact the upcoming election.

"Obamacare is just blowing up," Trump said Tuesday at a rally, going on a tirade against Obama's landmark yet controversial health-care law, after it was announced that Obamacare premiums will rise by around 25 percent next year.

The tactic is a bid to cast doubt on rival Hillary Clinton's health care plans, as she said she would continue to implement Obamacare, as the healthcare revamp is known, rather than... (More on P4)... (24)

## Global Migrant Deaths up 20 Percent: IOM

GENEVA - Migrant deaths worldwide this year have surged above 5,200 -- a 20 percent increase on 2015 -- driven by record fatalities in the Mediterranean, the International Organisation for Migration said Friday.

In total, 5,238 people have perished since January 1, or 951 more than at the same point in 2015, the Geneva-based IOM said in a statement.

The Mediterranean Sea route, used by nearly 330,000 people in 2016 seeking a new life in Europe, remains the world's deadliest.

The UN refugee agency said this week that Mediterranean migrant fatali-



ties had hit a record 3,800. IOM put the number of dead and missing on that route at 3,930 for the year, but the two partner agencies often have different figures.

Migrant deaths also rose to 500 this year in Latin

America, with people on the move killed by a range of causes including dehydration, vehicle accidents and murder. IOM noted that in 60 percent of cases the bodies of migrants who perish are never recovered. (AFP)

## Turkey Gives U.S. More Files on Extradition Request of Gulen

Gulen, a cleric whom Ankara accused of orchestrating the failed coup in July, Turkey's Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan said Thursday.

At a news conference at the Turkish embassy in Washington D.C., Bozdogan said the Turkish side submitted to U.S. Attorney General Loretta Lynch three folders containing the additional information and documents requested by the United States. He called on the U.S. authorities to process the files and not to "ignore the legal procedure or the law."

Turkey has repeatedly demanded Gulen's extradition following the attempted coup, while U.S. officials insisted that they can only extradite him if Turkey presents proof regarding his direct involvement in the coup. Turkey, a NATO ally for the United States, is a major member of the U.S.-led coalition in the fight against the Islamic State terrorist group.

At the press conference, Bozdogan said he did not believe Washington would "sacrifice" its friendship with Turkey for a leader of a terrorist organization. (Xinhua)

## British PM Welcomes Nissan Decision to Build New Models in Britain



LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May Thursday welcomed an announcement by Japanese car maker Nissan that it is to build new models at its plan in Sunderland.

As well as protecting thousands of jobs in England's northeast, the decision will be seen as a boost for Britain's post-Brexit ambitions.

The news came just hours after the announcement that the British economy grew 0.5 percent in the the quarter after the June 23 referendum decision to quit the EU.

There had been fears major industries would consider leaving or reducing activities in Britain in the event of a hard Brexit. Commentators immediately said the Nissan decision will strengthen Britain's stance for its tough Brexit negotiations with Brussels.

Most of the vehicles built at the plant are exported, many to Europe. May said in a statement from 10 Downing Street: "The government will continue to work closely with employers and investors in creating a global Britain, a country where there are new opportunities for jobs and rewarding careers." (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### Chinese VP to Attend Meetings in Turkey and Russia

BEIJING - Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang will attend bilateral meetings in Turkey and Russia from Nov. 1 to 5, a Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Friday. Wang will attend the 20th meeting of the Joint Commission for the Regular Prime Ministers' Meetings of China and Russia at the invitation of Russian Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry

Rogozin, spokesperson Lu Kang announced at a routine press conference. Wang will also visit Turkey and attend the first meeting of a governmental cooperation committee mechanism of deputy prime ministerial level between the two countries, at the invitation of Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Mehmet Simsek. (Xinhua)

### Nawaz Launches Rs3.9 Billion Gas Project in Kohat

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday performed the groundbreaking ceremony of a gas project worth nearly Rs3.9 billion in Kohat city of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, where his rival Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf is in government. "This is not a small project -- has anyone done this for Kohat before? Who has spoken about gas for Kohat before - the project is being launched today," the premier said.

"4 billion rupees is nothing, Nawaz Sharif will even give his life for you," the prime minister said.

In his address, the prime minister also promised to

open a hospital in Kohat and launch a project of free treatment.

"I will make a state-of-the-art hospital here. Your children will not have to go to Islamabad and Rawalpindi for treatment, treatment will be provided to them here," he said. "Nobody will have to sell their assets for treatment."

"Kohat, Pindi Gheb will be joined by a highway... you will become closer to Islamabad and Peshawar." He said orders for the construction of the highway have been given to the chairman of National Highways Authority, who was present during the address. (Monitoring Desk)

### Turkey, Turkmenistan to Bolster Business Co-Op

ASHGABAT - Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has welcomed Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister Yildirim Tugrul Turkes who stressed the high interest of Turkish business circles in strengthening co-operation, the Turkmen government said.

The spheres of trade, economy and energy, transport and communications sector, as well as industry and construction were named as the priority directions for enhancing bilateral cooperation.

The significant role of the Turkmen and Turkish commission and the joint business council has been noted during the meeting.

Turkish companies are implementing 1,580 projects in such sectors of Turkmenistan as transport, fuel and energy complex, communications, agriculture, construction, trade, water resources management.

Some 562 enterprises with Turkish capital have been registered in Turkmenistan. The volume of foreign trade between Turkmenistan and Turkey amounted to \$5.5 billion in 2015. Electricity, polymers, propylene, oil and oil products, cotton yarn and textiles are exported to Turkey. Turkmenistan, in turn, buys technical equipment and consumer goods. (Trend)

### Belarus, Tajikistan Discuss Prospects of Trade, Economic Cooperation

MINSK - The Ministries of Foreign Affairs of Belarus and Tajikistan held consultations in Minsk on Thursday, BelTA learned from the press service of the Belarusian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The parties discussed a wide range of issues, including bilateral cooperation, collaboration within international organizations, prospects

for bolstering the trade, economic and humanitarian ties, and ways to improve the legal framework. The Belarusian delegation was headed by First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrei Yevdochenko, and the Tajik delegation was led by Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs Mahmadsarif Haqdod. (Monitoring Desk)

### Presidential Election Campaign Starts in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Election campaign of presidential candidates has started in Uzbekistan, Chairman of the Central Election Commission (CEC) of the country Mirza-Ulugbek Abdusalomov said on Saturday at a briefing in Uzbekistan.

It was reported that to date, the CEC of Uzbekistan registered presidential candidates nominated by four political parties to participate in the presidential election in the country to be held December 4, 2016.

"All the presidential candidates can start election campaign since the date of their registration by the CEC of Uzbekistan, October 28, in accordance with the appropriate decision made by the CEC," Abdusalomov said. He added that equal rights to use mass media outlets for the election campaign are given to the presidential candidates in accordance with the CEC decision. In particular, each presidential candidate is provided with... (More on P4)... (25)