

UN Security Council to Hold Emergency Session on Syria, Diplomatic Sources Say

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council will hold an emergency meeting on Saturday evening on Syria after the U.S.-led coalition staged airstrikes on Syrian military positions, diplomatic sources told Xinhua.

The meeting is scheduled to start at 19:30 EDT (2330 GMT) at the request of the Russian Federation, one of the five permanent members of the 15-nation UN council, the sources said. "The meeting will take place behind closed doors," the sources said. The Russian Defense Ministry said earlier Saturday the U.S.-led



coalition killed 62 Syrian government troops and injured some 100 others in a round of airstrikes in eastern Syria's province of Deir al-Zour.

"Today, in areas close to the Deir al-Zour Airport, the aircraft from the international anti-Islamic State coalition carried out four airstrikes against units of the Syrian government troops surrounded by terrorists," the ministry's spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

The warplanes entered the airspace of Syria from the Iraqi border, the spokesman said. (Xinhua)

It will be 'Personal Insult' if African Americans do not Vote: Obama

NEW YORK - Barack Obama said on Saturday night he will take it as a "personal insult" if the African American community fails to turn out for the presidential election and encouraged black voters to support Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton.

Obama delivered his final keynote address to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, symbolically passing the torch to the person he hopes will succeed him next year. Clinton, his former secretary of state, was honored for becoming the first female presidential nominee of a major party.



Obama said his name may not be on the ballot, but issues of importance to the black community were, including justice, good schools and ending mass incarceration.

"I will consider it a personal insult, an insult to my legacy, if this community lets down its guard and fails to activate itself in this election," Obama said with a stern look and ... (More on P4)...(19)

Russia Says U.S.-Led Airstrikes Kill 62 Syrian Government Troops

MOSCOW - The U.S.-led coalition killed 62 Syrian government troops and injured some 100 others in a round of airstrikes in eastern Syria's province of Deir al-Zour, the Russian Defense Ministry said Saturday. "Today, in areas close to the Deir ez-Zor Airport, the aircraft from the international anti-Islamic State coalition carried out four airstrikes against units of the Syrian government

troops surrounded by terrorists," the ministry's spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement. The operation left 62 Syrian servicemen dead and about 100 injured, the spokesman said, adding that the warplanes entered the airspace of Syria from the Iraqi border. Syria's national TV also confirmed the killing of Syrian servicemen by the U.S.-led coalition. (Xinhua)

Pentagon Says Coalition Airstrike may have Struck Syrian Military

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon said on Saturday a U.S.-led coalition airstrike against the Islamic State may have unintentionally targeted Syrian government forces. "Coalition forces believed they were striking a Daesh fighting position," said a Pentagon statement, referring to the extremist group in its Arabic acronym.

"The coalition air strike was halted immediately when coalition officials were informed by Russian officials that it was possible the personnel



and vehicles targeted were part of the Syrian military," said the statement. The Russian Defense Ministry said ear-

lier Saturday the U.S.-led coalition killed 62 Syrian government troops and injured some 100 others in a round of airstrikes in eastern Syria's province of Deir al-Zour. "Today, in areas close to the Deir al-Zour Airport, the ... (More on P4)...(21)

6 IS Militants, Civilian Killed in Air Strike, Bomb Attack in Iraq

BAGHDAD - Six Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Saturday in an airstrike in Salahuddin province, while a roadside bomb attack killed a civilian in the northern province of Kirkuk, security sources said. In Iraq's northern central province of Salahuddin, a helicopter gunship bombed two IS vehicles near Ajil oil field in northeast of the provincial capital city of Tikrit, which itself located 170 km north of Baghdad, destroying the vehicles and killing six IS militants aboard, a provincial security source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The small Ajil oilfield was captured by IS militants following the June 10, 2014 blitzkrieg when the group seized large swathes of territories in ... (More on P4)...(22)

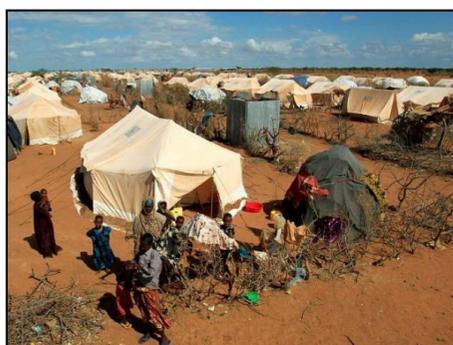
IS Downes Syrian Warplane in Deir Al-Zour, Pilot Dead

DAMASCUS - The Islamic State (IS) group downed a Syrian warplane in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour on Sunday, the Syrian national TV said, adding that the pilot was "martyred." The Syrian warplane was engaged in striking the IS positions in al-Itharda Mountain when it was shot down, said the report. A day earlier, the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition struck Syrian military positions in al-Itharda, killing 90 Syrian soldiers and injuring 110 others, which enabled the IS terrorists of taking over the mountain. Later in the evening, the Syrian army under Russian air cover succeeded to recapture all fallen bases in al-Itharda, according to the state TV. The Syrian government accused the United States ... (More on P4)...(24)

UNHCR Denies Abuse of Somali Refugees in Kenyan Camp

NAIROBI - The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on Saturday denied allegations by the U.S.-based Human Rights Watch that the agency and the Kenyan government were harassing and intimidating Somali refugees in Kenya to let them return home.

UNHCR's Representative in Kenya, Raouf Mazou, said in a statement that the agency was working closely with Kenya to ensure that Somali refugees' rights were upheld and that solutions were found to enable them to live in peace and security, including voluntary repatriation in conditions of safety and dignity. The UNHCR and



Kenya are repatriating Somali refugees living in northern Kenya's Dadaab, the world's largest refugee camp currently harboring more than 300,000 Somalis, as Kenya said it would close the camp in Novem-

ber, citing mainly security concerns. Dadaab was set up over 20 years ago to house Somalis fleeing civil conflict. The Human Rights Watch said on Thursday that ... (More on P4)...(23)

Explosion, Stabbing, Gunshots in U.S. over Weekend

NEW YORK - Twenty-nine people were injured in an explosion in the Chelsea neighborhood in New York City Saturday evening, and the city mayor said there has so far been no evidence of a terror connection. "Early indications are that this was an intentional act," New York City Mayor Bill De Blasio said, adding that "there is no specific and credible threat against New York City at this point in time from any terror organization." Law enforcement

sources have reportedly said they found a device that appeared to be pressure cooker near the explosion site. Also on Saturday night, a man wearing a private security company uniform stabbed eight people at a mall in the northern U.S. state of Minnesota before an off-duty police officer shot him dead. The stabbings occurred in multiple locations inside the mall, including in the common area and several stores, according to local police. "All ... (More on P4)...(25)

Turkey, Russia form Direct Military Hotline



Moscow - Turkey and Russia have established a direct military line between the countries' chief of General Staffs, as part of measures to prevent a repetition of incidents over Syria such as Turkey's downing of a Russian jet on Nov. 24, 2015.

Within the scope of a trilateral mechanism consisting of military, foreign relations and intelligence topics, a direct line of communication has been established between Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar and his Russian counterpart, Gen. Valery Gerasimov, who paid a one-day visit to Ankara on Sept. 15. Relations between Ankara and Moscow have been repaired after months of strain since Turkey shot down a Russian warplane over the Syrian border for violating Turkish airspace.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Russian President Vladimir Putin on Aug. 9 in St. Petersburg and Russia has lifted economic sanctions imposed against Turkey after the jet downing. (Daily News)

Neighbor News

Chinese-Israeli Relations on Track of Healthy, Stable Development: Official

JERUSALEM - Chinese-Israeli relations have witnessed healthy and stable development in recent years as a result of joint efforts by both sides, with notable achievements recorded in various fields, Chinese Ambassador to Israel Zhan Yongxin told Xinhua in a recent interview. Israel is a key country in the Middle East and China attaches great importance to the development of Chinese-Israeli relations, Zhan said, adding that the exchanges of high-level visits since 2013 have injected a strong impetus into the development of bilateral ties.

The two countries made

steady progress in building mechanisms for bilateral cooperation, such as the establishment of the inter-governmental economic and technological cooperation mechanism and the joint committee on innovation cooperation, thus providing a guarantee for the expansion of their pragmatic cooperation, he said.

Noting that the exchanges between China's National People's Congress (NPC) and Israel's parliament Knesset are a major component of the political relations between the two countries, Zhan predicted that the upcoming visit to Israel by Zhang Dejiang, chairman ... (More on P4)...(26)

Iran's President Urges Cooperation among OPEC Members to Stabilize Oil Market

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday urged close cooperation among OPEC member states in the upcoming meeting of the cartel in Algeria to stabilize the oil market, Iran's Petro Energy Information Network (SHANA) reported.

"I hope, through close cooperation and engagement, effective steps will be taken for the collective interests in the upcoming OPEC meeting," Rouhani said, adding that "this is a need for oil market stability and fair prices."

Earlier, SHANA reported that Iranian Oil Minister

Bijan Namdar Zanganeh would take part in a meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Algeria in September.

In the meeting, the Iranian delegation would encourage the OPEC member states for an agreement on the curb of oil output aimed to create balance in the market. Oil prices in the market have fallen to around 50 U.S. dollars a barrel from some 100 dollars in 2014. The OPEC members will meet on the sidelines of the International Energy Forum in Algeria on Sept. 26-28. (Xinhua)

PM Backtracking on CPEC Promise: ANP

PESHAWAR - Awami National Party claimed on Saturday that Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had backtracked on his commitment regarding early completion of the western route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying that the benefits of this project were limited only to the developed areas of Punjab province.

In a press release issued here, ANP's central information secretary Zahid Khan stated that the prime minister had made commitment with ANP chief Asfandyar Wali Khan and also at an all-party conference that the western route of CPEC would be completed before the eastern route. However, he said that the federal government had

now been acting otherwise and its entire focus was on projects meant for development of certain developed areas of Punjab.

Zahid Khan claimed that the backward areas of Balochistan and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa had been ignored in CPEC by the federal government. He said that even the Orange Train Project in Lahore had been funded from the funds meant for CPEC. He stated that from very beginning of the project the ANP had made public its apprehensions that certain narrow-minded elements in the federal government would play their role in making the CPEC controversial by ignoring the backward areas of KP and Balochistan. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan to Host Oil & Gas Conference in November

ASHGABAT - The International Oil and Gas Conference (OGI) will be held in Ashgabat on Nov. 15-17, 2016, the Turkmen Oil and Gas Complex said in a message Sept. 16.

The Energy Exchange of the UK is a co-organizer of the forum. The conference is important for those who work or want to work in the field of oil, gas and oil processing in Turkmenistan. The event's agenda will include the discussion of such issues as development in hydro-

carbon transportation and infrastructure distribution, investment opportunities in the oil and gas industry, understanding the current legal framework, development of potential of onshore and offshore sites, new gas processing technologies, modernization of oil and gas processing facilities.

Turkmenistan ranks the second in terms of natural gas reserve in the CIS after Russia. Turkmenistan supplies its gas to Iran and China. (Trend)