

U.S. Federal Gov't Facing Shutdown Threat Again

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Senate on Tuesday failed to pass a stopgap funding bill proposed by Republicans, pushing the federal government to the edge of shutdown.

The federal government will suffer another shutdown if Congress fails to pass the bill to maintain current funding levels by Friday.

The funding bill to avoid a government shutdown was rejected twice by the Senate by 45-55 and 40-59. It needs 60 votes to pass.

Majority leader Mitch McConnell, a Republican senator from Kentucky, said that Democratic leaders rejected the bill for the sake of "election-year politics."



Democrats said they held the bill because they wanted to add money to help residents who have been affected by lead-tainted water in Flint, Michigan. The bill has already included 1.1 billion U.S. dollars to fight Zika and millions to help flood victims in Louisiana, West Virginia and Maryland. Affected by increasing brinkmanship within Washington politics in recent years, approving funding bills has become more and more difficult for the federal government. The federal government was forced to shut down from Oct. 1 to 16 in 2013 as Congress didn't pass the appropriations funds for the fiscal year 2014. (Xinhua)

Syrian Military Intensifies Airstrikes on Rebel Positions in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - The Syrian military intensified its airstrikes on rebel positions in the northern city of Aleppo on Wednesday, a military source told Xinhua.

The air raids targeted rebel posts in Khan Touman, Miratah, Dar Ezzah, Qbaitan al-Jabal and other towns in Aleppo and its countryside, the source said on condition of anonymity.

Many rebels were killed and their military equipment destroyed, the source said without elaboration.

The Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said at least 23 people were killed Wednesday during airstrikes targeting rebel-held al-Shaar and al-Masha'd, in the eastern part of Aleppo. The London-based monitor group, which says it relies on a network of activists on the ground inside Syria, said the death



toll will most likely rise as dozens of people are still trapped under rubble. It said an entire build-

ing collapsed in al-Shaar following intensified airstrikes. The escalation in ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Russia Prefers Keeping its Current Oil Production Level

MOSCOW - Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said Russia's strategy to stabilize the oil market presupposes keeping its current oil production level, the Russian news agency Sputnik reported Tuesday.

"We are ready and our strategy presupposes keeping oil production levels," Novak told press during the 15th International Energy Forum (IEF) held in Algeria on Sept. 26-28.

Russia's Deputy Energy

Minister Kirill Molodtsov said last week that Russian oil production has reached a record high in September, with daily output exceeding 11 million barrels on Sept. 8.

OPEC Secretary-General Mohammed Barkindo said last week that a meeting of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) on the IEF sidelines will try to reach a consensus to freeze output for at least one...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Military Operation in Syria Needs UN Authorization or Damascus' Consent: Russian Ambassador

ANKARA - Turkey's military operation in the north of Syria should be undertaken with the authorization of the United Nation or Damascus' consent, Russian Ambassador to Ankara Andrey Karlov said Tuesday.

"We understand the causes for the Euphrates Shield operation led by Turkish armed forces in Syria. The perpetrators of the horrible terror attacks in Turkey in the majority of cases came from Syria," Karlov said in his speech

at the Turkish private Atilim University. "However, there is one 'but'. In accordance with the norms of international law, such operations should be conducted with the authorization of the UN or with the consent of the country where the operation is being carried out," he stressed.

"This requirement was not respected, and we regret for that," the ambassador said.

The Turkish army ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Turkey Arrested 32,000 Suspects since July Coup Attempt

ANKARA - Turkish courts have placed 32,000 suspects under arrest for being alleged links to a US-based preacher blamed for the failed coup attempt by some elements of the military in July.

The arrests, sackings and trials are leading up to Turkey's most extensive legal procedures in its history with thousands expected in the docks.

Justice Minister Bekir Bozdag told NTV television that 70,000 people had been investigated after the attempted putsch on 15 July, while 32,000 have



been remanded in custody. "This process is continuing," he said.

The numbers of those arrested marks an increase

of more than 10,000 from those previously given by the government.

Bozdag said that there could be new arrests, while

some of those currently arrested could still be freed under judicial control or freed entirely.

...*(More on P4)...(22)*

IS Militants Set Fire to 3 Oil Wells in Northern Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq - Islamic State (IS) militants on Wednesday set fire to three oil wells near the town of Qayyara, which Iraqi forces freed from the IS late last month in south Mosul, a local official said.

"Daesh terrorist group (IS group) planted bombs in three oil wells of Najma oilfield, which is still under IS control, and blew them up in the early morning," Salih Hassan al-Jubouri, the mayor of Qayyara, some 55 km south of Mosul, told Xinhua.

The blasts ignited enormous fires in Najma oilfield, just north of the town of Qayyara, sending black smoke above the town and nearby villages, Jubouri said. Earlier in the month, the Iraqi oil ministry said fires were put out at six oil ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Missile that Downed MH17 Came from Russia: Joint Investigation Team

THE HAGUE - The Buk missile that downed flight MH17 was brought from Russia and fired from a region in eastern Ukraine controlled by pro-Russian rebels, according to the Joint Investigation Team's (JIT) report released Wednesday by the Netherlands Public Prosecutor's Office.

The report concluded the Malaysian Airlines Boeing 777 was shot down by a Buk missile which was brought from Russia to Ukraine.

The weapon was fired from a field in the Ukrainian village Pervomaysk, which at the time of the disaster was in the hands of pro-Russian rebels, it said. The launcher was then brought back to Russia, according to the JIT's initial probe. In a response to the report, Russia's ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Humanitarian Situation Worsens as 26 Million Yemenis Face Starvation

SANAA - The impoverished Arab country of Yemen is now one step closer to famine, according to a United Nations (UN) report.

People here wonder how much more suffering can 26 million Yemenis bear? At Al-Sabeen, a state-run maternity hospital in Sanaa, a ward dedicated to childhood malnutrition treatment received 26 emergency cases this month alone.

Fifteen-month-old Ali Saleh is one of the patients. Stick-thin and suffering from persistent diarrhea and vomiting,



he was diagnosed with severe malnutrition. His parents, unable to afford enough food themselves, are also suffering from malnutrition.

"Even the milk they purchased for the child was

either expired or spoiled due to poor storage and absent electricity, a typical phenomenon characteristic of wars and blockades," said doctor Abdulah Hajash, who also has to ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Malaysian PM Calls for Firm Action Against Perpetrators in MH17 Downing

KUALA LUMPUR - Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has called for firm action against the perpetrators in the downing of flight MH17, saying "we have promised that those who were responsible will be brought to justice."

Following the release of an investigation report on the tragedy on Wednesday, Malaysia's national state news agency Bernama quoted the prime minister, who is on an official visit to Germany this week, as saying that "The families want justice. So

we will pursue this." According to Najib, Malaysia will call for a meeting with the other countries which lost their citizens, namely the Netherlands and Australia, to decide the next course of action. "We must see to it that those responsible are punished," he said.

Malaysia Airlines MH17 crashed in eastern Ukraine on July 17, 2014 while flying from Amsterdam to Kuala Lumpur. All 298 people on board died, most of them Dutch citizens. (Xinhua)

UN to Assist Kenya to Achieve Gender Parity in the Mining Sector



BAGHDAD - Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi on Wednesday said the Iraqi government asked for more U.S. troops as trainers and advisers to help liberate the last major Islamic State (IS) stronghold in Mosul.

"U.S. President Barack Obama was consulted on a request by the Iraqi government for a final increase in the number of U.S. trainers and advisers under the umbrella of the international coalition in Iraq to provide support for the Iraqi security forces," Abadi said in a statement issued by his office.

However, Abadi stressed that the role of the trainers and advisers is not combatting, and that those who will liberate the land are only Iraqi forces, the statement said, adding that the "number of trainers and advisers will be reduced immediately after the liberation of Mosul."

About 4,400 U.S. troops are currently in Iraq, a number expected to increase before the battles in Mosul, located some 400 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad. Mosul, the second largest city in Iraq, has been under IS control since June 2014, when Iraqi government forces abandoned their weapons and fled, enabling IS militants to take control of parts of Iraq's northern and western regions. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Imposes Anti-Subsidy Duties on U.S. Distiller's Grain

BEIJING - The Chinese Ministry of Commerce said on Wednesday that it will impose anti-subsidy duties on distiller's dried grain (DDG) from the United States by requiring importers to pay a cash deposit on purchases.

As of Friday, importers of the product must place deposits with Chinese customs ranging from 10-10.7 percent, according to the ministry.

The move comes after the ministry imposed anti-dumping duties on DDG from the United States last week. Starting last Friday, importers of

DDG were required to set aside deposits at 33.8 percent of the import value.

The domestic industry has been "substantially" harmed by the dumping and subsidies of DDG, the ministry said in a preliminary ruling following an investigation launched earlier this year.

DDG is the nutrient rich byproduct of dry-milled ethanol production, which is used in animal feed. China is the world's biggest buyer of DDG, with most imports coming from the United States. (Xinhua)

China, Pak Officials Hail Prospects for Economic Corridor, Friendly Relations

ISLAMABAD - The China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) will be a "magnet" to attract more investment, business opportunities and exchanges to Pakistan in the near future, said Chinese Ambassador to Pakistan Sun Weidong on Tuesday.

The ambassador made the remarks during a reception commemorating the 67th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China. He added that the CPEC have made significant progress as 16 out of a total of 30 early harvest projects have been completed or are under construction with an estimated investment of 14 billion U.S. dollars.

Sun said that the CPEC

is an open and inclusive cooperation concept aiming at promoting people's livelihood, adding that under the initiative, tens of thousands of jobs for local people have been created.

The envoy also appreciated the Pakistani side over its emergency assistance of 10,000 tons of rice to China for severe flood in some Chinese southern provinces recently and efforts by the Pakistani military and law enforcement agencies to create a safe environment for Chinese nationals and institutions in the country.

For his part, Sardar Ayaz Sadiq, speaker of the National Assembly of Pakistan, hailed that ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Iran Ultimate Force against Terrorism: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the Islamic Republic stands as the "ultimate force" in the region and the entire world against terrorism, adding that the international community is well aware of the nation's true nature.

He made the remarks during an address to a large gathering of people in the northwestern city of Qazvin on Wednesday. "Gone are the days when Iran would be accused of supporting terrorism and the Iranian people would face other accusations such as building nuclear bombs as the true nature of the nation has come to light for the world," he

said. Iran has managed to retain its security, despite the chaos bubbling up throughout most of the region. The country has also successfully lent advisory support to Iraq and Syria in their fight against foreign-backed militancy.

Rouhani said, so far this year, he had met with 22 world leaders, all of whom had first and foremost congratulated the country on preserving its national strength in the face of world powers, with member states of the Non-aligned Movement having termed the victory as one not only for Iran, but also for the developing world. (Presstv)

Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan to Increase Trade Turnover

TASHKENT - Issues of increasing mutual trade, regulating of property and debt relations, developing of legal framework were discussed in the 12th intergovernmental Uzbek-Turkmen commission on trade-economic, scientific-technical and cultural cooperation held September 26, 2016, said the message of Turkmenistan's Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, Investment and Trade.

Representatives of the governments of Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan identified carrying out coherent policy for rational usage of water resources as the priority area of cooperation in the region.

The sides discussed the

continuation of mutually beneficial cooperation in the transport-transit sphere by providing mutual preferences for transportation of foreign trade freights.

The agreement on increasing export from Uzbekistan to Turkmenistan in large production nomenclature was reached as a result of the meeting. In particular, Uzbekistan intends to increase supply of engineering, electro-technical, chemical and automotive products, including buses, special and municipal equipment, cotton and other agricultural machinery, building materials, consumer electronics, processed fruits and vegetable products. (Trend)