Russia Refutes “Aggressive” Encounter with U.S. Military Aircraft

NEW DELHI - India on Sunday expressed concern over an explosion at a Sikh temple in Germany, saying it had “invested a lot of our resources” in keeping the site secure. (Image 177x1194 to 583x1386)

16 IS Militants Killed in Clashes, Air Strikes in Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq - A total of 16 Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Sunday in clashes and air strikes in Iraq’s largest city of Ramadi, provincial security sources said.

The security forces and allied Sunni military council engaged a force of 16 IS militants in a rural area in north of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, leaving two IS militants killed, including two suicide bombers.

Moscow's Battle for Influence in Iraq

MOSCOW - The Russian defense ministry released a detailed report on a dangerous encounter with a U.S. military aircraft over the Baltic Sea on April 14, the ministry’s spokesman Konstantin Zakaryan told Reuters.

The Russian air defense systems went on alert on Thursday after four U.S. military aircraft entered the Russian air defense identification zone over the Baltic Sea on April 14, according to a list of names provided by the U.S. Air Force, the spokesman added.

After visual contact with the U.S. reconnaissance plane changed its course to the northeast and again entered the Russian air defense identification zone over the Baltic Sea on April 14, the U.S. Air Force, the spokesman added.

President Hollande Arrives in Egypt for Two-Day Visit

CAIRO - French President Francois Hollande arrived in Egypt Sunday afternoon where he was received by his Egyptian counterpart Abdel-Fattah el-Sisi in the Coty presidential TV program, the Egyptian state news agency MENA reported.

Hollande’s two-day visit in Egypt is seen as a sign of support for the Egyptian government and the Shiites in Kuwait and will focus on the war-torn country.

On Saturday, Yemen’s Higher Electoral Committee announced the results of the parliamentary elections, which were held on April 12.

The results is following up the 2013 constitution which took place with the southern people demand for independence and self-determination, according to a list of names provided by the U.N. on the eve of the 15th anniversary of the South Yemeni Revolution.

The southern people demand for independence and self-determination and other political demands are part of the war-torn southern Yemeni movement and protest against Houthi group.

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The Southern Resistance and the Northern Resistance are the main forces in the struggle for independence and self-determination. (Xinhua)

Iran Backs Oil Producers’ Output Freeze: Minister

TEHRAN - Iran’s oil minister said Sunday that his country supported oil producers’ output freeze, oil’s Petro-Fetos Energy Information Center reported.

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) Oil Force commander Major General Hossein Zare Zandrezaan told the producers’ conference that "we support the idea of reducing output in the oil market with the historic production quota. The idea of limiting production will create stability in the oil market because it is essential to limit oil output at January 2016 levels for the developing countries to create a market for oil." (Image 502x433 to 726x561)

Russia to Defend Regional Security Jointly with China: Deputy DM

BEIJING - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday that Russia and China would jointly defend regional security, according to a statement released by the Russian foreign ministry.

Russia and China have agreed to cooperate on regional security, Lavrov said, according to a statement released by the Russian foreign ministry.

"The powerful army in the region belongs to the Islamic State, which is against the Syrian Revolution in the region, and it is against the global community," he said.

"The reports of foreign forces in Khasfa area near the town of Haditha, some 320 km south of Ramadi, at 26:00 (Baghdad time) on Thursday, which the ministry’s spokesman told that the reports are based on a defector who surrendered to the ministry’s spokesman.

Whatever the reason behind these rumors, we firmly believe that Iraqi forces are capable of handling such situations," he said.

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