

RIYADH (Dispatches) – Saudi Arabia's King Salman will resume a domestic tour and make an annual address to the Shura Council next week, as the country grapples with its worst political crisis in a generation over the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi. The king, 82, will meet citizens and launch development projects in northern areas including Waad al-Shamal industrial city, state news agency SPA reported on Tuesday. His remarks to the Shura Council, a largely ceremonial advisory body to the government, will encompass domestic and foreign policy, SPA said, and they will be his first public comments since the Khashoggi killing.

When this world favors somebody, it lends him the attributes, and surpassing merits of others and when it turns its face away from him it snatches away even his own excellences and fame.

Amir al-Momeneen Ali (AS)

Saudi-Led Warplanes Target Entrance to Yemen's Hudaydah



Militants and mercenaries gather on the eastern outskirts of Hudaydah as part of their push to capture the Yemeni port city, November 10, 2018.

SANAA (Dispatches) – The military coalition led by the Saudi regime has carried out airstrikes targeting the main entrance to Yemen's western port city of Hudaydah, some five months after coalition forces, backed by armed militia loyal to the former Yemeni government, launched a full-scale offensive to seize the vital port.

The main gate "was the target of airstrikes... but the port is operating normally," said the port's deputy director Yahya Sharafeddin on Tuesday, adding that at least two airstrikes had hit the entrance, leaving three guards wounded.

Other reports said that a single-story guard-room had taken a direct hit from the strikes, which killed at least one soldier.

Back in June, the coalition, backed by loyalists of Yemen's former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, who resigned amid popular discontent and fled to Saudi Arabia three years ago, started a massive offensive against Hudaydah, which is currently under a tight siege imposed by the invaders.

World Food program (WFP) executive director David Beasley arrived in Yemen on Sunday

to assess food security in the impoverished Arab country that has been pushed to the brink of famine by more than three years of war.

He visited a school in Hudaydah on Tuesday to oversee the distribution of food coupons which allow families to obtain a basket containing flour, sugar, milk, oil and canned beans.

"Thank God there is calm and security today. We went out to buy things for the house without fear," said Fattoum Ahmad, a housewife and a resident of Hudaydah city. "There were no explosions or gunfire. I wish the war would not resume."

It was unclear if the fighting stopped because of Beasley's visit and whether the UN coordinated with the Saudi-led coalition.

However, the Saudi-led forces on November 1 commenced a fresh wave of airstrikes and ground invasion in an attempt to capture the city of some 600,000 people.

In a separate report on Tuesday, al-Masirah cited Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman Brigadier General Yahya Saree as saying that since early November, 867 mercenaries and those loyal to Hadi had been killed in various fronts and 2,150 others were wounded.

He added that 1,224 of Riyadh's mercenaries and Hadi's militia had either been killed or wounded in Hudaydah alone.

Leading a coalition of its allies, including the United Arab Emirates and Sudan, Saudi Arabia invaded Yemen in March 2015 in an attempt to reinstall Hadi.

Since the onset of the imposed war, the Yemeni army, backed by Houthi fighters, has been defending the impoverished nation against the brutal aggression.

Minister: Premature to Talk About Reconciliation in Idlib, Situation Fragile



Syria says it is still premature to talk about a reconciliation process in the province of Idlib since the situation in the terrorist-held region remains "fragile."

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Syrian Minister of State for National Reconciliation Affairs Ali Haidar said on Tuesday that it was still premature to talk about a reconciliation process in the province of Idlib since the situation in the terrorist-held region remains "fragile."

"Today it is impossible to talk about a reconciliation process in Idlib, given that the situation is fragile and critical – it's like a person balancing on a ball. This problem is connected with a number of other issues," Haidar was quoted by the Al-Watan newspaper as saying in parliament during the budget discussions.

According to Haidar, "the political process in Idlib has come to a halt, even though a military operation was suspended."

"The reason is that the Turkish side does not meet the obligations undertaken by it in Sochi," he pointed out.

The minister suggested that Moscow does not want to damage its relations with Ankara, and therefore "seeks justification for [the latter] in the hope that Turkey will honor its commitments."

"At the same time, Moscow is sure that Idlib will return under the control of the Syrian state, and is working very hard on this issue," the minister stressed.

Meanwhile, the ministry is seeking to maintain contact with residents of the areas bordering the provinces of Latakia, Aleppo, and Hama, to assure the locals that the state will recapture the province and also find out more about the situation on the ground, Haidar noted.

On November 8, Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said that was too early to talk about the completion of creating a demilitarized zone in Idlib, as terrorists continue provocations.

Prior to that, on September 17, Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan agreed at talks in Sochi to set up a demilitarized zone in Idlib along the contact line of the armed terrorists and the government forces by October 15. The withdrawal of heavy weaponry operated by the militants is also part of the agreement.

'U.S. Conducts More Operations to Rescue Daesh Terrorists'

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – The U.S. military forces continued illegal heliborne operations and rescued several Daesh terrorists from the eastern province of Dayr al-Zawr and north-eastern province of Hasaka, field sources reported on Tuesday.

The U.S.-led coalition helicopters landed in the village of al-Suweidiyah in northeastern Hasaka and took three Daesh terrorists away.

In the meantime, several other helicopters carried out a heliborne operation in Hajin desert in Eastern Dayr al-Zawr, transferring a group of Daesh terrorists to an unspecified location.

Heliborne of Daesh members by the U.S. military has long been underway amid the U.S. claims of campaign against Daesh terrorists on the eastern bank of the Euphrates.

Last week, the Arabic-language al-Ma'aloumah news website quoted Ahamd al-Sah-rifi, an Iraqi security expert, as disclosing that the U.S. intended to heliborne Daesh terrorists from Syria-Iraq border to regions behind Iraqi forces' positions near border with Syria.

In another development, two main rival terrorist groups engaged in clashes in southern Idlib on Tuesday.

Tahrir al-Sham Hay'at started arresting terrorists of the rival National Liberation Front (NLF) in several villages, including Ablin and Kansafrah, in Jabal al-Zaviyah in Southern Idlib.

The NLF arrested a Mufti (religious leader) of Tahrir al-Sham along with a number of Tahrir terrorists in the village of al-Rami in southern Idlib.

Local sources reported that



A member of the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) watches as a U.S.-led coalition Chinook helicopter flies by in the town of Shadadi, about 60 kilometers south of the northeastern Syrian city of Hassakeh, on September 11, 2018.

members of the NLF have engaged in heavy fighting in the towns of Ma'arat al-Nu'aman and Ariha in southern Idlib.

Field sources said on Thurs-

day that a Tahrir al-Sham commander, Abu Abdullah Mohjer Marakeshi, was killed by unknown assailants in Jisr al-Shughour in Western Idlib.

Iran, Syria to Counter U.S. Bid to Revive Terrorists

DAMASCUS (Dispatches) – Iran and Syria have pledged to keep counter-terrorism cooperation and to counter U.S. bids to revive terrorists and create obstacles to prolong the war in the Arab country.

Tehran and Damascus discussed anti-terror cooperation during a meeting between Hussein Jaber Ansari, senior assistant to the Iranian foreign minister on special political affairs, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in Damascus, Syria's official news

agency SANA reported.

The meeting was also attended by Assad's political and media adviser, Bouthaina Shaaban, Syrian Deputy Foreign Minister Faisal al-Mikdad and the Iranian ambassador to Damascus.

Stressing the importance of Syrian-Iranian relations as a factor of stability, the two sides reaffirmed both nations' determination to continue combating terrorist groups operating across the region.

They also underlined the need for a political settlement as the sole solution to the Syria crisis. They also vowed to resist any pressure by the United States, which is attempting after its failure to revive terrorists to topple the government in Damascus.

Iran has been offering military advisory support to Syria at the request of the Damascus government, enabling its army to speed up its gains on various fronts against terror outfits.

However, over the past few years, the occupying regime of Israel, the closest ally of the U.S. has frequently attacked military targets inside Syria in an attempt to prop up terrorist groups that have been suffering defeats in the battle against Syrian government forces.

In addition, the U.S.-led coalition has been conducting airstrikes against what are said to be Daesh targets inside Syria since September 2014 with-

out any authorization from the Damascus government or a UN mandate.

The military alliance has repeatedly been accused of targeting and killing civilians. It has also been largely incapable of achieving its declared goal of destroying Daesh.

The Syrian and Iranian sides also discussed a yet-to-be-formed constitutional committee, which is supposed to include representatives from various Syrian groups.

The committee is expected to include 150 members: 50 chosen by Damascus, 50 by the opposition and the final 50 by the UN outgoing envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura. It will also include civil society representatives, religious and tribal leaders, experts and women.

The UN-prepared list has already been rejected by Damascus, which is to draw up its own list, along with Russia, Iran and Turkey.

PKK Injures 3 Road Construction Workers in Turkey

ANKARA (Anadolu) – Three road construction workers were injured in an armed attack by the terrorist group PKK in southeastern Turkey on Tuesday, according to the provincial governor's office.

PKK terrorists attacked workers on a road construction site in the Mt. Guven area of Hakkari province's Cukurca district, wounding three of them.

Operations against the terrorist organization are ongoing in the region, the statement added.

In its more than 30-year terror campaign against Turkey, the PKK -- listed as a terrorist organization by Turkey, the U.S. and the EU -- has been responsible for the deaths of nearly 40,000 people.