

#PollToday



Do you think schools in Bahrain have implemented enough security measures?

Yes No Can't Say

Rest in sight

Seven Indonesians on trial over alleged IS links

Seven Indonesian men went on trial yesterday accused of links to the Islamic State group, and could face the death penalty if found guilty of breaking anti-terror laws.

Allies of China ex-security chief jailed for graft

Two former senior Chinese politicians were convicted of corruption and given lengthy prison terms yesterday, courts said, the latest figures to be jailed in President Xi Jinping's anti-graft campaign.

Yemen PM, president in Saudi to discuss difference

Yemen's premier was in Riyadh yesterday to meet Yemeni President Abedrabbo Mansour Hadi and the Saudi-led coalition backing their administration as reports emerged of differences between them.



Baghdadi wounded in raid: Iraq launches probe

Iraq's security services were attempting yesterday to confirm reports that Islamic State group leader Abu Bakr Al Baghdadi was wounded in an Iraqi strike on his convoy.

Swedish University closed after anonymous threat

Sweden's second largest university said it would close all day on Monday following an anonymous threat that raised fears of a mass shooting.

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EU demands immediate halt to Russia strikes

Russia, unwelcome game-changer: EU



Syrian Americans and supporters of the Syrian people holding a protest demonstration in front of the Russian embassy in Washington

Luxembourg

The EU demanded yesterday the "immediate" halt of Russian air strikes against moderate Syrian rebel groups and warned a lasting peace was impossible under Moscow-backed President Bashar Al Assad.

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini called

Russia's military intervention in Syria an unwelcome "game-changer" that jeopardised peace efforts and risked clashes with western aircraft targeting Islamic State jihadists.

"The recent Russian military attacks that go beyond Daesh (IS) and other UN-designated terrorist

groups, as well as on the moderate opposition, are of deep concern and must cease immediately," the EU's 28 foreign ministers said in a statement.

"This military escalation risks prolonging the conflict, undermining a political process, aggravating the humanitarian situation and

US-led coalition drops ammo to anti-IS Syrian rebels

Washington

US-led coalition forces have parachuted ammunition to rebels fighting Islamic State jihadists in northern Syria, a US military spokesman said yesterday.

The move follows the Pentagon's announcement last week that it would pause a programme to train moderate rebels, and instead

focus efforts on equipping screened rebel leaders from groups fighting IS.

"The aircraft delivery included small arms ammunition to resupply counter-IS ground forces, so that they can continue the operations. Speaking on condition of anonymity, a US official said the drop included 50 tons of ammunition.



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Russian police foil terror attack planned on Moscow

Moscow

Russia's security services said yesterday it foiled a "terrorist attack" on Moscow's public transport system by a group of militants, some of whom were trained by Islamic State jihadists in Syria.

A statement by the federal security service (FSB) said they had detained a group of people

in Moscow and seized bomb-making materials they were planning to use in an attack on the capital's busy transport system.

"During questioning of two of the detained men, it became known that they were planning a terrorist attack on the Moscow public transit system," said the statement, which was carried by Russian news agencies.

increasing radicalisation," they said. EU leaders meet Thursday for a summit likely to be dominated by the Syrian conflict which has claimed some 250,000 lives and driven about 12 million people --

half the population -- to flee their homes.

Many of them have given up hope of an end to the war and have flooded into Europe seeking refuge, helping drive the worst migrant crisis since World War II.

Russian President Vladimir Putin said Sunday Russia's military actions in Syria were meant to "stabilise the legitimate authorities and create conditions for finding a political compromise."

Russia, which insists its attacks on "terrorists" include IS targets, has important military facilities in Syria and has backed Assad and his father before him against all rivals for decades. (AFP)

First 'in womb' stem cell trial to begin next year

Paris

Foetuses burdened with a crippling form of brittle-bone disease will receive stem-cell treatment early next year in a pioneering trial, the lead researcher said yesterday.

Stem cells will be injected to help strengthen bones so frail they may break before birth, the researchers said. Stricken newborns will also be treated, and the results compared.

Children with severe forms of the condition, called osteogenesis imperfecta, suffer repeated fractures of bones throughout the skeleton, leading to painful disability

and, in some cases, death in early infancy.

Other symptoms include brittle and discoloured teeth, hearing loss and breathing difficulties due to malformed rib cages. There is no cure.

Genetic in origin, brittle-bone disease affects about one in 25,000 people of European descent.

The condition is caused by a defect in a gene that produces collagen, a fibre-like protein crucial for strengthening bone, much in the way steel rods reinforce concrete. The trials, coordinated by the Karolinska Institute in

Sweden where the stem-cell treatment was developed, will involve a group of 15 foetuses and another group of 15 newborns.

Each group will receive

injections of stem cells designed to boost collagen levels in growing bones.

Stem cells are blank-slate cells which, as they grow, differentiate into the various

specialised cells that make up the tissue of different organs -- the brain, the heart, the kidney, and so on.

The approach was already tested on a handful of young children suffering from brittle-bone disease, with encouraging results, said the Karolinska Institute's Cecilia Gotherstrom.

"We have treated two children prenatally. One child is now 13 and one was born last year," she said. A third infant, today six years old, was treated in collaboration with researchers in Singapore and Taiwan.



Picture for representation