



Syrian residents fleeing the eastern part of Aleppo walk through a street in Masaken Hanano, a former rebel-held district which was retaken by the regime forces last week and an image grab reportedly shows bodies lying on a street in the rebel-held district of Jubb al-Qubbeh in eastern Aleppo following government artillery fire.

PHOTO: AFP

## ANNUAL STATE OF NATION SPEECH

# Putin wants to get on with US president-elect

Presidency is 'bigger job than I thought': Trump

### AGENCIES

President Vladimir Putin struck an unusually conciliatory tone in his annual state of the nation address yesterday, saying Moscow wanted to get on with the incoming US administration and was looking to make friends not enemies.

Putin has used previous set-piece speeches to lash out at the West and the United States in particular, but he reined in his criticism this time round and focused most of his speech on domestic social and economic issues.

"We don't want confrontation with anyone. We don't need it. We are not seeking and have never sought enemies. We need friends," Putin told Russia's political elite gathered in one of the Kremlin's grandest halls.

"We are ready to cooperate with the new US administration. We have a shared responsibility to ensure international security."

Any US-Russia co-operation would have to be mutually beneficial and even-handed, he said.

Putin has spoken previously of his hope that US President-elect Donald Trump may help restore tattered US-Russia relations,

and analysts said he was unlikely to want to dial up anti-Western rhetoric before Trump's inauguration in January.

The Russian leader said he was hoping to find common ground with Washington on fighting global terrorism in particular.

Putin's tone may have been softer than usual, but he still made it clear that Russia would continue to robustly stand up for its own interests.

Donald Trump has admitted the presidency is "a bigger job than I thought", a leading Republican has revealed.

After meeting the President-elect last week, former Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich told USA Today the billionaire businessman was starting to appreciate the burden of the Oval Office.

Gingrich said: "He commented, 'This is really a bigger job than I thought.' Which is good. He should think that."

After President Barack Obama met his successor at an official meeting in the Oval Office, sources inside the White House told The Wall Street Journal that Trump "seemed surprised by the scope" of responsibilities the job entails.

## Colombia peace deal ratified

AFP, Bogota

Colombia's Congress has given its stamp of approval to a peace accord aimed at ending a 52-year-old armed conflict with FARC guerrillas -- Latin America's longest -- but experts say implementing it will not be easy.

The lower house of the Congress approved the accord with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, by a unanimous vote late Wednesday, clearing one of the last legal hurdles for it to go into effect.

President Juan Manuel Santos hailed the deal's passage on Twitter, expressing "gratitude to Congress for historic backing for Colombians' hopes for peace."

But questions remain over the breadth of public support for the accord, despite four years of protracted negotiations in Havana between the Santos government and the FARC.

The sides were forced to quickly renegotiate the treaty and submit the revised version to Congress for approval after an earlier version was narrowly rejected in a national referendum October 2.

More than 260,000 people have died in the conflict, which drew in other guerrilla forces, right-wing paramilitary groups, drug traffickers and government troops.

# UN warns of 'giant graveyard'

Russia vows to save Syria's Aleppo from 'terrorists' as thousands flee

AFP, Aleppo

Hundreds of elite Syrian troops moved into east Aleppo yesterday ahead of a push into the most densely populated areas, after the UN warned the city risked becoming a "giant graveyard".

Despite fierce global criticism, forces loyal to President Bashar al-Assad have pressed an assault to retake control of all of Aleppo, once Syria's commercial hub but now a divided city in ruins.

The assault -- backed by heavy artillery fire -- has spurred a mass exodus of tens of thousands of residents from rebel-held districts.

The relentless barrage has left Aleppo's streets strewn with the bodies of men, women and children, many lying next to the suitcases they had packed to escape.

The steady artillery fire could again be heard pounding rebel areas early yesterday, with heavy rainfall adding to the misery.

The assault has seen Assad's forces make significant gains in the last week. After overrunning the city's northeast, they were in control of 40

percent of the territory once held by opposition forces in Aleppo, according to the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

The violence in Aleppo has sparked widespread outrage, but little concrete action from the international community.

Speaking to a special Security Council session on Wednesday, UN humanitarian chief Stephen O'Brien made an urgent appeal.

## ALEPPO CRISIS

"For the sake of humanity we call on -- we plead -- with the parties and those with influence to do everything in their power to protect civilians and enable access to the besieged part of eastern Aleppo before it becomes one giant graveyard," he said.

Meanwhile, Russia yesterday said it will continue military operations in the besieged and battered eastern part of Aleppo until the city is "cleared of terrorists".

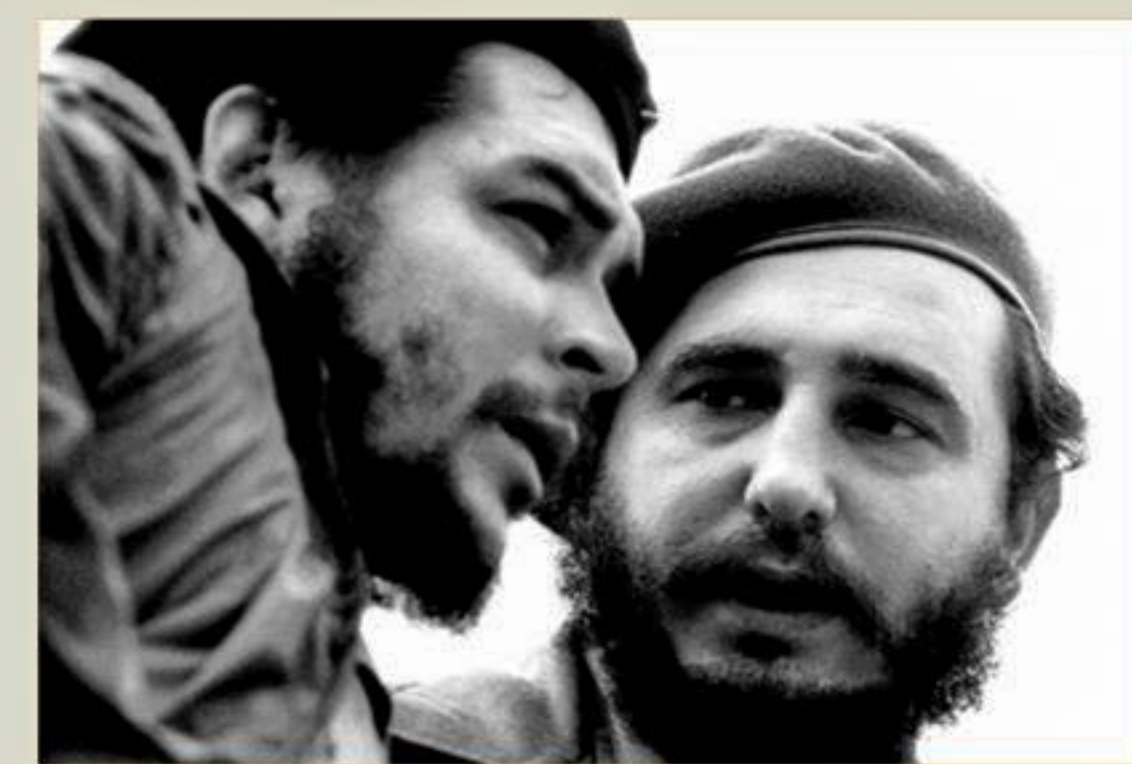
Speaking at a press conference on a visit to Turkey after a meeting his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in the Mediterranean town of Alanya, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russia would continue efforts to allow humanitarian aid into Aleppo and acknowledged the need for a truce.

However, UN special envoy Staffan de Mistura said Syria and Russia have declined the UN's request for a pause in the fighting to evacuate the estimated 400 sick and wounded needing treatment.

Syrian warplanes have been pounding east Aleppo with air strikes for months -- often using crude munitions like barrel bombs -- but as the ground advance has gathered pace the army has instead turned to more precise artillery.

The latest attacks brought the civilian toll of the government's offensive to more than 300 civilians, including 42 children, since November 15.

Retaliatory rocket fire by the rebels on government-held areas has killed 48 civilians, according to the Britain-based Observatory, which has a wide network of sources on the ground.



## Castro, 'Che' reunite

AFP, Santa Clara

Fidel Castro's ashes were taken yesterday to a symbolic reunion with his fallen comrade-in-arms Ernesto "Che" Guevara in Santa Clara, the first stop in the late Cold War titan's last trip across Cuba.

After two days of tributes in Havana, hundreds of thousands of flag-waving Cubans lined the streets to bid farewell as a military jeep began a four-day journey on Wednesday morning with the cedar urn in tow.

Crowds chanted "I am Fidel!" as the convoy started retracing the victory tour that Castro's guerrilla took in 1959 to celebrate their defeat of US-backed dictator Fulgencio Batista.

The flag-covered urn, which rested under a glass case on a small olive-green trailer, arrived in Santa Clara after midnight and entered a complex with a mausoleum and museum dedicated to Guevara.

"It's a historic meeting, two comandantes who change the history of Cuba and humanity," said Agnier Sanchez, a 33-year-old medical imaging technician.

A somber guitar, song and dance show played across a giant statue of Guevara as the "caravan of freedom" paused a third of the way into its 950-kilometer (590-mile) trek across the island.

The convoy will resume, heading to other cities before a final ceremony on Sunday in the eastern city of Santiago de Cuba, where Castro's ashes will be laid to rest next to 19th century independence hero Jose Marti.

Cubans were observing the fifth of nine days of mourning for Castro following his death on Friday at age 90. Castro ruled from 1959 until an illness forced him to hand power to his brother Raul in 2006.

Dissidents call Castro a dictator who jailed opponents but others in Cuba praise his legacy of providing free education and health care to Cubans while defying the US "empire."



An Iraqi father (L) mourns the death of his son, who was killed during clashes in the Islamic State stronghold of Mosul, in al-Samah neighborhood, Iraq, yesterday.

PHOTO: REUTERS

## Plane crashed without fuel

Say investigating officials of Colombia tragedy

REUTERS, Medellin

The plane that crashed in Colombia killing 71 people including most of a Brazilian soccer team had no fuel on impact, according to initial findings by aviation officials, prompting an investigation into why the plane flew under those conditions.

The comments by the civil aviation authority late Wednesday night confirmed Bolivian pilot Miguel Quiroga's final words to the control tower at Medellin's airport on a crackly audio obtained by Colombian media.

"When we arrived at the accident site and were able to inspect the remains we could confirm that the aircraft had no fuel at the time of impact," said Freddy Bonilla, secretary of airline security at Colombia's aviation authority.

A recording of the pilot's final words can be heard telling the control tower the plane was "in total failure, total electrical failure, without fuel."

He requested urgent permission to land before the audio went silent. The BAe 146,

made by BAE Systems Plc, slammed into a mountainside next to the town of La Union outside Medellin.

Only six on board the LAMIA Bolivia charter flight survived, including three of the Chapecoense soccer team en route to the Copa Sudamericana final, the biggest game in their history, a journalist and two crew members.

International flight regulations require aircraft to carry enough reserve fuel so they can fly for 30 minutes after reaching their destination in case they need to circle before landing or fly to another airport.

LAMIA Chief Executive Officer Gustavo Vargas said on Wednesday it is at the pilot's discretion to refuel en route. He said plane should have enough fuel for about four and a half hours, more or less depending on weather.

Investigators from Brazil have joined Colombian counterparts to check two black boxes from the crash site on a muddy hillside in wooded highlands near La Union.

Bolivia, where LAMIA is based, and the United Kingdom also sent experts to help the probe.

## UN panel snubs Britain over Assange ruling

AFP, Geneva

A UN panel has rejected Britain's request to review a ruling that WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange is being arbitrarily detained, according to a statement released late Wednesday in Geneva.

Having initially issued its opinion in favour of Assange in February, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention said it was not changing course as the British request "did not meet the threshold of a review... and (was) thus not admissible".

Assange, 45, has been at the Ecuadoran embassy in London since 2012, having taken refuge to avoid being sent to Sweden where he faces rape allegations that he denies.

He fears Sweden would extradite him to the United States to answer for the leaking of diplomatic cables and other classified documents by his whistle-blowing website. The disclosures caused huge embarrassment in Washington.

The UN panel, which is attached to the Human Rights Council, met between November 21-25 but only published its findings on Wednesday.



Girls mourn the members of the Brazilian football team Chapecoense Real who were killed in a plane crash in the Colombian mountains in the Brazilian state of Santa Catarina, on Wednesday.

PHOTO: AFP



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### Chairperson Position

**Department of Architecture, Electrical and Electronic Engineering, Computer Science and Engineering, Economics and Social Sciences**

**Academic Qualifications:**  
PhD in the relevant discipline from a recognized institution of international repute

**Other Qualifications:**  
Minimum 8 years of fulltime teaching at the university level with at least 6+ years' experience in a leadership role in academic administration, significant research and publications, with at least 10 peer reviewed articles published in the last 7 years. Excellent communication skills with local and international outreach are also important.

**Duties & Responsibilities:**  
He/ She shall be reportable to the Vice Chancellor for all matters connected with the department. Major duties and responsibilities will be as follows:

- The Chairperson's responsibilities include leadership of the department's academic and operational affairs, including creating and fostering a healthy collegial environment within the department.
- The Chairperson is expected to develop policies and strategies for the growth and expansion of the department consistent with the vision and values of the university and ensure external visibility.
- Review, change and improve the curriculum of the existing programs and courses periodically and initiate new and innovative programs.
- Take initiatives to strengthen alumni relations and improve relationships with current students.
- Lead the recruitment of faculty members and serve as a mentor for probationary faculty. Promote diversity among faculty and serve as a role model for professional and personal developments.
- Actively engage in all aspects of teaching, learning, research and knowledge sharing.
- Perform such other works as may be assigned from time to time.

**Salary & Benefits:**  
Salary and benefits are offered as per BRACU rules. However, higher initial pay may be considered for deserving candidates having varied academic experiences and higher qualifications. Individuals of all nationalities are encouraged to apply.

**Application Procedure:**  
Interested Individuals meeting the above requirements should apply online through [www.bracu.ac.bd/about/get-involved](http://www.bracu.ac.bd/about/get-involved) on or before **20 December 2016**. Applications may also be sent to the address mentioned below.

**HRD - BRAC University**  
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