

TRUMP RAMPS UP VOTER FRAUD CLAIM, SLAMS...

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Clinton is lying low ahead of the final debate tomorrow, apparently relying on Trump self-destructing.

Trump has tried to portray Clinton, a former US senator and secretary of state, as a corrupt lifelong politician who is vested in preserving the status quo.

The country's top elected Republican, House of Representatives Speaker Paul Ryan, has tried to counter Trump's message about election fraud.

In the traditionally closely fought state of Ohio, the top elections official, a Republican, said concerns about widespread voter fraud were simply not justified.

of State Jon Husted told CNN. Numerous studies have shown that voter fraud in US elections is very rare, according to the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law.

An August study by The Washington Post found 31 credible cases of impersonation fraud out of more than 1 billion votes cast in elections from 2000 to 2014.

Clinton campaign manager Robby Mook told reporters that Trump's assault on the voting system was an act of desperation.

Trump's campaign has been struggling with sexual misconduct allegations from several women since a 2005 videotape emerged on Oct 7 showing him boasting about groping and making other unwanted sexual advances on women.



Members of the Syrian Civil Defense, known as White Helmets, search for victims amid the rubble of a destroyed building following air strikes in the rebel-held Qatari neighborhood of the northern city of Aleppo yesterday.— AFP

ELECTION FEVER GRIPS KUWAIT AS SNAP...

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The opposition group, which ended its boycott, is fielding six candidates. The Islamist Ummah Principles Group, another opposition group that will take part in the polls, is also fielding several candidates.

MP Ali Al-Khamees said he has decided to seek reelection mainly to confront the candidacy of controversial MP Abdulhameed Dashti, who said on Twitter that he is contemplating to run in the election.

who has received total jail sentences of over 31 years for insulting Saudi Arabia and Bahrain, has been living outside Kuwait since March.

On Sunday, HH the Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Sabah dissolved the Assembly at the recommendation of the Cabinet after MPs filed three requests to grill ministers for raising petrol prices and alleged financial and administrative violations.

IRAQ FORCES LAUNCH MOSUL OFFENSIVE

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IS forces are vastly outnumbered, with the US military estimating that 3,000 to 4,500 jihadists are in the city and surrounding area.

But they have had months to prepare and will seek to use hit-and-run tactics, ambushes, snipers, bombs, berms and trenches to slow down and bleed Iraqi forces.

Around 4,000 Kurdish peshmerga took part in a push to reclaim villages once inhabited by members of the Christian and Kakai minorities, a statement said.

The United Nations and other aid organizations warned that a huge number of civilians were in immediate danger.

The UN's humanitarian coordinator in Iraq, Lise Grande, told reporters that an exodus could begin within a week.

The Norwegian Refugee Council said safe exits from Mosul must be provided or civilians will be faced with the bleakest of choices: stay behind and risk their lives under attack, or risk their lives trying to flee.

are expected to eventually take up positions on the edge of the city and lay siege before breaching its boundaries and directly engaging diehard jihadists.

"This operation to regain control of Iraq's second-largest city will likely continue for weeks, possibly longer," warned Lieutenant General Stephen Townsend, commander of the US-led coalition.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan yesterday indicated that Turkey would also play a role in the offensive despite concerns raised by Baghdad over Ankara's involvement.

As the biggest Iraqi military operation since the 2011 withdrawal of US troops unfolded, a Turkish delegation arrived in Baghdad for talks and coalition defense ministers agreed to meet in Paris on October 25 to take stock.

If Mosul falls to Iraqi forces, only Raqqa in Syria would remain as the last major city in either country under IS control. But even the recapture of Mosul will not mark the end of the war against IS, which is likely to increasingly turn to insurgent tactics as it loses more ground.

RUSSIA ANNOUNCES BRIEF ALEPPO TRUCE

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"We have taken a decision not to waste time and to introduce 'humanitarian pauses', mainly for the free passage of civilians, evacuation of the sick and wounded and withdrawal of fighters," senior Russian military officer Sergei Rudskoi told a press briefing in Moscow.

Russia's announcement, to which there was no immediate reaction from rebels, came as the EU condemned the ferocious air war waged on Aleppo over the past three weeks.

The EU ministers said they would also press ahead with extending sanctions against Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad's regime, but stopped short of threatening measures against Russia.

Once Syria's thriving commercial hub, Aleppo has been ravaged by air raids and intensifying clashes as regime forces fight to capture the rebel-held east.

The deaths brought to 47 the number of people killed since Sunday morning in east Aleppo, the Observatory said.

More than 430 people have been killed in bombardment on the eastern half since the assault on Aleppo was announced on Sept 22, according to the Observatory.

US Secretary of State John Kerry met his counterparts from Russia, Iran, and Syria's neighbors in Switzerland on Saturday, and travelled on to London for meetings with the British and other European foreign ministers.

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