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## Assad says confident of winning Syria conflict

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**Syrian President Bashar al-Assad says he is confident that the country's Army will win the conflict against the foreign-backed militants who are fighting the government.**

Assad's remarks, made during a meeting with a number of Lebanese officials in Damascus, were published in Lebanon's *As-Safir* newspaper.

"We are sure we will win, we are reassured by the political and military developments," the paper quoted the Syrian president as telling the Lebanese delegation.

*"We are convinced that the future is ours.... Syria has the will power to defeat the conspiracy," [which is] backed by Western and regional powers, Assad added.*

"That does not mean that everything is settled, we still have a lot to do politically and in the battle against extremist terrorist groups," he said, according to the Lebanese paper.

Assad also told the visiting Lebanese politicians that the "absolute majority of Syrians" were those "loyal" to the government.

Meanwhile, Syrian media reported that the country's troops were gearing up to drive militants out of areas under their control in northern province of Aleppo in the next 48 hours.

Clashes between the army and the foreign-sponsored armed men have been raging during the past few days over the control of Nayrab military airbase and the road leading to Aleppo international airport.

The official SANA news agency said dozens of militants were killed on Sunday during intense clashes with the Syrian army on the outskirts of the capital, including al-Nabek town, Qara district and Ghouta area.

Syria has been experiencing unrest since March 2011. Many people, including large numbers of security forces, have been killed in the turmoil.