

# Russia Seeks Int'l Cooperation to Counter IS

MOSCOW - Russia on Tuesday called for wide international cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State (IS), as Moscow is concerned about the growing influence of the terrorist group.

"It is common knowledge that Russia has been expressing concern at the highest level about the growing influence of the so-called Islamic State and how it is expanding territory under its control in Syria and Iraq," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Russia wants to call on everyone to cooperate in this regard, he added.



The spokesman also said it is too early to disclose any details about Rus-

sia's plans to fight the IS, as Moscow has been waiting for its partners'

response. Everything depends on the modality of cooperation,

he said, noting that uncoordinated actions of the international com-

munity would only deteriorate the situation, particularly in Syria.

On Monday, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told his U.S. counterpart, John Kerry, that Russia has been seeking a joint front against the IS.

During their encounter in Qatar's capital Doha, Lavrov said any U.S. strikes against Syria's government troops would complicate the fight against the group. The IS has been the main danger in Syria and Iraq and this is why Moscow supported the governments of both countries, he said. (Xinhua)

## Japan Should First Check Whether Exposed U.S. Spying is True: PM

TOKYO - Japan should first check whether the exposed spying was true with the United States and then try to understand its ally's true intention, instead of responding to the messages released by Wikileaks, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Tuesday. Abe made the remarks at a special committee meeting of the upper house of Japan's Diet while responding to the recently exposed U.S. spying on Japan by the

Wikileaks website. "If the alleged spying were true as the Wikileaks website revealed, as an ally of the U.S., Japan would find it extremely regrettable," Abe said, adding, "We are strongly asking the U.S. to check the facts." The Wikileaks website on Friday posted U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) reports and a list of 35 Japanese targets for telephone intercepts, including the Japanese Cabinet Office, the Bank of Japan, the country's



finance and trade ministries, and major Japanese trading companies. According to the website, the eavesdropping dated back to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first government in 2006, and one report from telephone intercepts of senior Japanese officials could have been shared with Australia, Canada, Britain and New Zealand - the U.S. intelligence partners. (Xinhua)

## Qatar's FM Urges 'Serious Dialogue' with Iran



DOHA - Qatar's top diplomat on Tuesday called for a "serious dialogue" with Iran in the wake of its nuclear deal with world powers, even as he blasted Tehran for continuing to support Syria's embattled government.

Foreign Minister Khalid al-Attiyah made the comments in a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press that also touched on the controversy surrounding Qatar's hosting of the 2022 World Cup and allegations of Doha's links to Islamic militant groups. Al-Attiyah spoke from a skyscraper office overlooking the rapidly developing Qatari capital, Doha, a day after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met with the six-member Gulf Cooperation Council in Qatar. Kerry's visit was aimed in large part at reassuring the Arab allies of America's commitment to their security following the deal, which gives Iran broad sanctions relief in exchange for guarantees it won't build a nuclear bomb. The Gulf states have welcomed the deal despite deep-seated mistrust of Iran, a non-Arab, Shiite power that they see as increasingly assertive across the Middle East. Al-Attiyah said a "firm agreement between the major players and Iran" was the best way to resolve the nuclear issue. And he suggested there was now scope to work with Iran on other topics too. "We should have a serious dialogue with our neighbor, the Iranians, and ... lay down our concerns from both sides, and solve them together. Iran is our neighbor in the..." (More on P4)...(27)

## Mediterranean Crossings Result in over 2,000 Migrants Deaths in 2015

GENEVA - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) indicated Tuesday that over 2,000 migrants lost their lives so far this year while attempting to cross the Mediterranean Sea to reach Europe. The migration agency reported that most of the deaths took place in the Channel of Sicily on the Central Mediterranean route connecting

Libya to Italy. Considered the most dangerous passage, the use of unsuitable vessels used by smugglers and traffickers was cited as a catalyst for tragedies to take place. Such was the case last week when 19 people lost their lives in the Channel of Sicily after the engine of the boat on which they were traveling overheated. According to IOM, the drinking water

was subsequently used to cool the engine down, resulting in heat exhaustion and death for fourteen migrants. "It is unacceptable that in the 21st century people fleeing from conflict, persecutions, misery and land degradation must endure such terrible experiences in their home countries, not to mention en route, and then die on..." (More on P4)...(25)

## Yemen Pro-Government Troops Retake Rebel-Held Base in South

SANAA - Yemen's pro-government troops fought pockets of resistance outside a key military base in the country's south Tuesday, a day after they seized it from Shiite rebels, military officials said.

The capture of the Al-Anad base - once the site of U.S. intelligence operations against al-Qaida's powerful Yemeni affiliate - was a significant victory for the forces allied to Yemen's exiled Presi-

dent Abed Rabbo Mansour Hadi in their battle to reverse the gains of the rebels known as Houthis. The base was taken by the rebels when the conflict intensified in the spring and was their main encampment in the country's south. The pro-government forces took 45 prisoners in the battle for the base and were marching north toward another rebel-held military base called Labouza - the largest in the south, the

military officials said. As Al-Anad fell, rebel fighters fled to the nearby hills, the officials added, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to talk to reporters. Yemen's Defense Ministry announced the "liberation of Al-Anad military base" in a statement late Monday, thanking the Saudi-led coalition that has been targeting the Houthis in an air campaign since March. (AP)

## Obama Faces Tough Challenges at Home for New Climate Plan

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama found himself in a torrent of compliments and lashes after unveiling the final version of emission cuts for power plants on Monday.

Touted as the toughest ever climate policy in the country, the final version of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations stipulates a 32-percent cut of carbon dioxide from 2005 levels by 2030. This represented a step further in Obama's efforts to act on climate

change as the version he proposed last year called for a lower 30-percent cut.

It is estimated the emissions cuts will shut down a large number of coal power plants and cost 8.4 billion U.S. dollars annually by 2030.

The White House would encourage a drastic shift from the use of coal towards renewable energy in generating electricity, setting the target for renewable share of electric generation at 28 percent of all capacity.... (More on P4)...(26)

## Britain Extends Air Strikes against IS in Iraq by one Year

LONDON - Britain will extend its air strikes against Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq by an extra year, British Defense Secretary Michael Fallon said Tuesday.

Fallon announced that the frontline RAF Tornado squadron spearheading Britain's air campaign against IS in Iraq will be maintained in service for an additional year until March 2017, according to the British Ministry of Defense (MoD).

In a visit to Baghdad, Fallon said that 12 (Bomber Squadron will continue to offer the precision firepower, intelligence and surveillance needed

## US to Speed up Arms Sales to Gulf after Iran Deal: Kerry

WASHINGTON - Washington has agreed to speed up arms sales to Gulf states, US Secretary of State John Kerry announced Monday after talks in Doha on their concerns over the Iran nuclear deal. At the same time, his Qatari counterpart, Khalid bin Mohammad Al-Attiyah, told a joint press conference with Kerry that the nuclear deal was "the best option among other options". Asked what he could offer Gulf states, Kerry said the United States "agreed to expedite certain arms sales that are needed and that have taken too long in the past". The US would also step up efforts to share intelligence and increase the number of joint military exercises with its Arab allies, Kerry said following talks with foreign ministers of the six-nation Gulf

Cooperation Council. He travelled to the Qatari capital for meetings with the Sunni monarchies of the GCC in a bid to calm their fears over the nuclear accord with Shiite Iran. The GCC groups Qatar with Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates. Gulf countries have expressed concerns that the July 14 deal between Iran and world powers would allow greater regional interference by the Islamic republic. "We talked about the possibility, not the possibility, the reality of increasing the number of exercises that we are conducting together," Kerry said.

"These are a few examples and ways in which we believe the security of the region can be strengthened and..." (More on P4)...(24)

## India's Congress Party Protests against Suspension of 25 MPs

NEW DELHI - India's main opposition Congress party's lawmakers Tuesday staged a massive protest on the premises of the parliament against the suspension of 25 of its MPs.

Congress chief Sonia Gandhi, her son Rahul Gandhi and former prime minister Manmohan Singh led the protest of parliamentarians, wearing black badges. "Democratic voices have been muzzled," Rahul Gandhi told the media, reacting to the suspensions of 25 of its parliamentarians. Parliamentary speaker Sumitra Mahajan Monday suspended 25 Congress lawmakers for five days for "persistently, wilfully obstructing" the Lower House (Lok Sab-

ha). "It is a dark day for democracy," Sonia Gandhi said, after the suspensions.

The Congress, which has 44 members in Lok Sabha, have been disrupting the parliament everyday since the monsoon session began.

The party has been demanding the resignations of three top leaders of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), including External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj, caught in scandals. Swaraj has been accused of helping the country's former cricket boss Lalit Modi, now a fugitive in London for alleged money laundering, secure travel papers in Britain. Swaraj has denied the allegations. (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### Iran, U.S. in talks over opening Chamber of Commerce: Official

TEHRAN - Iran and the United States are in negotiations on launching a joint chamber of commerce, Press TV reported on Tuesday quoting an Iranian trade official. The United States has already taken measures for the establishment of the U.S.-Iran Joint Chamber of Commerce, and a reciprocal move will start in Tehran once the chamber is officially launched in Washington, Mohsen Jalalpour, president of Iran Chamber of Commerce, was quoted as saying. Jalalpour said the Iran-U.S. Chamber of Commerce will likely be established in Iran within

two months, and the preliminaries for this could be prepared during President Hassan Rouhani's anticipated visit to New York for a UN General Assembly meeting in September.

After Iran and world powers reached a comprehensive deal over the former's nuclear program in Vienna on July 14, Tehran has received several senior western officials for economic cooperation, including German Vice Chancellor Sigmar Gabriel, French Foreign Affairs Minister Laurent Fabius and EU Foreign Affairs Chief Federica Mogherini. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan, Turkmenistan Accelerate TAPI Gas Pipeline Preparations

ISLAMABAD - The construction of a \$10 billion gas pipeline stretching from Central to South Asia is set to begin in December, Pakistani officials said today after meeting with a delegation from Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan and India have long planned the ambitious project to meet growing energy needs in the three South Asian countries but administrative issues and unrest in Afghanistan have so far delayed its realisation. The Turkmen authorities however on Monday told Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif that ground on the pipeline - dubbed TAPI - would be broken this year. "The ground breaking ceremony of the TAPI (Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India) gas pipe-

line project will be held in December this year," a government statement said. But the project is politically complex, requiring cooperation between at least four governments, and logistically challenging, as the pipeline would pass through areas of Afghanistan and Pakistan plagued by Taliban and separatist insurgents.

France's Total was working to take the lead on TAPI, but Russia is also said to have expressed interest. Pak, struggling to meet its ever-increasing energy demands, has already renewed efforts to finish its under-construction pipeline from Iran after the landmark deal on Iran's nuclear programme because sanctions on the oil and gas rich country had jeopardised this project. (agencies)

### China to Continue Prudent Monetary Policy: PBOC



BEIJING - China will continue prudent monetary policy, according to the country's central bank on Tuesday.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) will use a variety of policy tools to fine tune the market, keep moderate liquidity and achieve reasonable credit and private financing growth, according to a statement released after a meeting attended by presidents of its branches to map out major tasks in the second half of this

year. The statement came after rising concerns that policymakers may tighten the monetary policy as inflation has shown signs of warming due to an unexpectedly sharp increase in pork prices.

The central bank said it will continue to improve lending structure, lower financing costs, keep the yuan stable, stabilize financial market expectations and boost the real economy. (Xinhua)

### Belarus-Tajikistan Cooperation in Education Discussed

MINSK - The educational opportunities for Tajik students in Belarus were discussed in a meeting between Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Belarus to Tajikistan Olga Gavruk Olga and First Deputy Minister of Education and Science Rakhmatullo Mirboboyev on Tuesday, BelTA learned from the press service of the Ministry

of Foreign Affairs of Belarus.

"The parties exchanged the views on bilateral cooperation in education, collaboration between universities of the two countries. Particular attention was paid to the holding of the fair of Belarus' educational services in Dushanbe in August," the Ministry of Foreign Affairs noted. (Monitoring Desk)