

Obama Warns of Dangers to Israel if Iran Deal Blocked

JERUSALEM - President Barack Obama told U.S. Jewish leaders it was likely rockets would fall on Tel Aviv if a nuclear deal with Iran was blocked and military action ensued, one of them said on Wednesday. In a separate appeal to American Jews, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a fierce opponent of the July 14 accord, pushed back in a webcast on Tuesday against the Obama administration's argument that the agreement was the only way to avoid eventual war with Iran. The Republican-led U.S. House of Representa-



tives will vote on whether to reject the agreement when lawmakers return to Washington in September, party leaders said on Tuesday, setting up a showdown with the president. Greg Rosenbaum, one of

20 Jewish leaders who met Obama at the White House on Tuesday, said on Israel Radio that the president spelled out what exercising a U.S. military option to strike Iran's nuclear facilities would mean if the deal between world powers and Tehran was scrapped. "He said military action by the United States against Iran's nuclear facilities is not going to result in Iran deciding to have a full-fledged war with the United States," Rosenbaum, of the National Jewish Democratic Council, quoted Obama as telling the forum. "You'll see more support for terrorism. You'll see..." (More on P4)...(24)

Diplomacy Key Mechanism to Overcome Syria's Crisis: Syrian FM

TEHRAN - Diplomatic efforts are highly important to help Syria to solve the crisis in the country, visiting Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al Moualem said here on Wednesday. Syria has ever been ready to talk with the opposition groups which do not resort to arms struggle against the Syrian government and are interested in the integrity of the country, al Moualem said in a meeting with the secretary of Iran's Supreme



National Security Council Ali Shamkhani. A durable stability and security in Syria requires a shift in the policies of some countries which have helped terrorism in Syria over the past years, he said. In the meeting, Shamkhani also stressed

the political mechanisms to settle crisis in the Arab state, saying that the national dialogue is the only means to this end. The terrorism of the Islamic State (IS) is a global threat and those states which have supported this group should be accountable to the massacre of innocent people by this group, he said. "Any attempt for foreign military intervention in Syria is unacceptable and it will weaken the legal..." (More on P4)...(25)

Global Economy Grows at Alowest Pace Since Financial Crisis, NIEERS Predicts

LONDON - The world economic growth would slow this year to the lowest rate since the financial crisis, the National Institute of Economic and Social Research (NIEERS) said Wednesday. The economic research institution downgraded global economic forecasts for 2015 and 2016. The 2015 and 2016 forecasts were revised down by 0.2 and 0.3 percentage points respectively, to 3.0 and 3.5 percent. NIEERS said global growth this year is now forecast to be the slowest for any year since the crisis, reflecting a trend of weakening growth in many emerging market economies as well as hesitant recoveries in the advanced economies. It cut growth forecasts for the U.S. and a number of emerging market economies in Asia and Latin America. While the Greek crisis has been the main preoccupation of eurozone policymakers, the growth forecast for the euro area has been lowered only slightly, the think tank added. Its prospects for Britain economy was unchanged at 2.5 percent this year. NIEERS said global growth might be boosted by delayed effects of lower oil prices, as well as by accommodative monetary policy and slower fiscal consolidation, but considerable risk remains. The institution noted that the Greek economy is a key risk to global growth. "More fundamentally, the Greek crisis has highlighted shortcomings of the Euro Area's institutional arrangements, and revived doubts about whether Europe's monetary union can succeed without deeper economic, fiscal, and political integration than is currently envisaged," said NIEERS. (Xinhua)

U.S. Aircrafts Arrive at Incirlik Airbase for battle against IS: Turkish FM

ANKARA - U.S. aircrafts and drones have arrived in Turkey's southern Incirlik airbase, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Wednesday, noting that the two countries will soon kick off a "comprehensive battle against the Islamic State (IS) altogether." "As part of our agreement with the U.S., we have opened our air bases, particularly

Incirlik," Cavusoglu told state-run broadcaster TRT during his visit to Malaysia. "We're witnessing manned and unmanned U.S. planes arriving soon and we will launch a comprehensive fight against IS altogether," the minister said. Incirlik airbase in the southern province of Adana is strategically located beside the Syrian

border and is a key military base for various international campaigns in the Iraq war. The Turkish government granted permission for anti-IS coalition forces, including the U.S. and other regional countries, to deploy manned and unmanned aircrafts in Turkey's military airbases, a written Turkish foreign ministry statement said on July... (More on P4)...(26)

Russia's Lavrov Criticizes Obama over Missile Shield Plans

MOSCOW - Russia's foreign minister said on Wednesday U.S. President Barack Obama appeared not to have told the truth in 2009 comments about the need for a planned missile shield in Europe should a nuclear deal be reached with Iran. Sergei Lavrov was quoted in the transcript of an interview with Channel News Asia on the foreign ministry's website as saying in English: "President



Obama in 2009 publicly said that if the Iranian nuclear issue is resolved, there would be no need for missile defense in Europe. It seems that he was not telling the truth." (Reuters)

Poland should be Part of Ukraine Peace Talks: President-Elect

WARSAW - Poland together with Ukraine's other neighbors should be involved in resolving the crisis in eastern Ukraine, Poland's president-elect Andrzej Duda said. Duda, who is from the socially conservative Law and Justice party (PiS) and will be sworn-in as president on Thursday, has repeatedly signaled that he will seek a more active diplomatic role for Poland. The current ceasefire was agreed on by leaders of Ukraine, Russia,

Germany and France in Minsk on Feb. 12 but fighting is still taking place. "Talks on Ukraine should be conducted in a new formula, with the participation of Poland and other neighbors of Ukraine," Duda said in an interview carried by state agency PAP on Wednesday. "A permanent peace can be guaranteed only by a wide peace conference," he said. Ukraine's former borders should be reestablished, he said. (Reuters)

S. African Gov't Warns of Suspending Mining Operations over Job Cuts

JOHANNESBURG - The South African government warns of suspending mining companies' operations over recent wave of job cuts in the sector. The Minister of Mineral Resources Ngwenyama ordered Tuesday coal producer Glencore to suspend all operations at its Optimum Colliery coal mine because of the way it planned to carry out retrenchments. Glencore announced last month it would cut 380 jobs at Optimum and shut part of the mine due to lower coal prices. Ramathodi has also

warned that other mining companies would meet the same fate if they cut jobs. This was obviously a reaction to the mounting wave of job cuts announced by several mining companies in the last few weeks. The government's move has caused alarm from the industry and the opposition alike. The move, in materialized, "is going to make things worse for our mine workers," the opposition Democratic Alliance (DA) said on Wednesday. The job losses are caused by plummeting world prices for South African minerals combined with a thicket of unclear, poorly conceived, and corruptly implemented mining regulations, said James Lorimer, a DA senior member. But the ruling African National Congress (ANC) must realize that if it tries to strongarm business, there will soon be no business left to strongarm, Lorimer said. In face of the crisis, Ramathodi has called for an urgent meeting with the mining industry and organized labor to address the issue of job losses. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

China Willing to Work with U.S. to Contribute to World Peace, Stability: FM

KUALA LUMPUR - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi met here Wednesday with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, discussing Chinese President Xi Jinping's forthcoming state visit to the United States in September and other issues of mutual concern. China is willing to make full preparation with the U.S. side to ensure the success of the Chinese president's historic tour, Wang said at the meeting on the sidelines of the ongoing 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting. He noted that the visit will not only make further arrangements for mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields so as to push forward a new model of major-country relations, but will also jointly send positive signals to the international community. The Chinese foreign minister expressed his hope that both sides deepen their mutually beneficial cooperation in various fields such as investment, military, climate change, finance, economy and trade, energy and law-enforcement. China is also willing to boost coordination and collaboration with the United States on regional and international issues concerning Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, Iran nuclear program, Middle East, anti-terrorism, Afghanistan among others, and play a constructive role in safeguarding world peace and stability. Wang said it is important now for both countries to properly handle two major issues - strategic mutual trust and sound interaction in the Asia-Pacific region. Noting that this year marks the 70th anniversary of the victory of World War II, Wang said the current international order and system with the...

Tajikistan, China Discuss Prospects of Economic Ties

AVESTA - Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade Negmatullo Hikmatullozoda met here on Tuesday with the former Chinese economic and commercial counselor to Tajikistan Li Yue and Sun Yan the newly-appointed Chinese economic and commercial counselor to Tajikistan, Tajik Ministry of Economic Development and Trade said Wednesday. The sides discussed prospects of further expansion of economic ties and bilateral mutually beneficial cooperation between Tajikistan and China. They also exchanged views on issues related to implementation of joint projects and the economic reform programs. Both sides expressed confidence that multilateral relations between the two countries would develop in the future as well. According to Tajikistan's Ministry of Economic Development and Trade, China invests various sectors of Tajik economy. China is implementing a number of projects in Tajikistan in such areas as energy, transport, mining, and trade. China, one of Tajikistan's largest creditors, is expected to invest 6 billion U.S. dollars in Tajik economy in the coming three years. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Vows to use Full Potential to Promote Regional Peace

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says the country will use whatever is in its power to establish peace and stability in the Middle East, urging collective cooperation to uproot terrorism. "The issue of terrorism and insecurity is a contagious disease that is not specific to a given region," Rouhani said in a meeting with Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs Paolo Gentiloni and Economic Development Minister Federica Guidi in Tehran on Wednesday. The president added that efforts should be made to fight extremism and violence, saying that terrorist groups should not be allowed to victimize innocent people regardless of the latter's nationality and religion. Rouhani further pointed to the great potential of European Union (EU) member states, particularly Italy, for cooperation with Iran and said, "The transfer of capital and technology to Iran and then joint export to regional markets are Iran's priorities for the expansion of economic relations with European countries." The Iranian president has previously said that the country does not welcome an influx of foreign goods into the Iranian market as a result of the removal of sanctions against Iran following an agreement with the P5+1. Instead, he has clarified, Iran expects foreign investment and technology. (PressTV)

President approves Islamabad LG bill

ISLAMABAD - President Mammoon Hussain on Tuesday accorded his assent to the Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Bill, 2015, paving the way for the first ever LG elections in the whole federal capital. "On a summary initiated by National Assembly Secretariat, the president has approved the prime minister's advice and accorded his assent to capital territory local government bill, 2015," said an official announcement issued from the Presidency. With some fresh amendments in the bill, now party-based LG elections will be held in Islamabad. (Agencies)