

UNGA to Adopt Agreement on Refugees, Migrants in September

UNITED NATIONS - The UN General Assembly (UNGA) is expected to adopt an agreement on globally resolving issues on refugees and migrants at a high-level meeting to be held on Sept. 19, UNGA President Mogens Lykketoft said on Tuesday. Lykketoft told reporters that member states have finalized negotiations on the draft agreement, which will act as "a solid base" to change the paradigm of how member states deal with the issues of refugees and migrants.

He said the current refugee and migrant crises are



"manageable" based on international cooperation and the principle of shared

responsibility.

The world is faced with unprecedented refugee and

migrant crises due to wars and conflicts. UN statistics showed that 65.3 million

people were displaced at the end of 2015.

The draft document pro-

posed a comprehensive refugee response framework as well as a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration, which outline recommendations with regard to reception of refugees and migrants as well as supporting them with ongoing assistance. The refugee and migrant issues will be one of the highlights for discussion during the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in September. A series of high-level meetings will be held on this topic to figure out ways to tackle the challenges. (Xinhua)

Italy's Deputy Foreign Minister Says Backs Libya's Fight against IS

TRIPOLI - Italy's deputy foreign minister on Tuesday stressed support for the government of Libya in the fight against the Islamic State (IS).

The Deputy Foreign Minister Vincenzo Amendola paid a visit to the Libyan capital Tripoli on Tuesday, and met with his Libyan counterpart Mohammed Taher Siyala and other senior officials of Libya's UN-backed unity government.

In a press conference fol-

lowing the meetings, Amendola reiterated the support of the Italian government to Libya in the fight against the IS in Sirte. He said that Italy is willing to set up a field hospital in Sirte to treat the government's fighters who are injured during the battles against the IS. Bilateral cooperation plans involving enhancing security and tackling illegal immigration were also discussed, Amendola added. (Xinhua)

Turkey Establishes Direct Contact Line with Russia over Syria

ANKARA - Turkey and Russia have agreed to keep in close contact regarding the war in Syria in order to avoid a repetition of incidents such as last year's downing of a Russian warplane, a Turkish presidential spokesman told local media on Wednesday.

Russia is waging a bombing campaign in support of President Bashar al-Assad while Turkey is fiercely opposed to the Syrian leader. "We have agreed to be in close contact in order to avoid such incidents,"



Ibrahim Kalin, a spokesman for Turkish President

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, told A Haber. "In this

framework, our chief of ... (More on P4)...(19)

Rebel Attacks Kill 142 Civilians in Aleppo Since July 31: Source

DAMASCUS - Up to 142 civilians have killed in rebel attacks in Syria's northern province of Aleppo since July 31, a military source told Xinhua on Wednesday.

An array of extremist groups unleashed what they called "Aleppo's Large Epic" battle on July 31, the source said on condition of anonymity.

A total of 48 children, 31 women, and 63 men have been killed, in addition to 672 injuries, mostly women and children, the source added. The rebel attacks,

which included firing mortar shells and improvised rockets, targeted several districts in the government-controlled part of western Aleppo.

Meanwhile, pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV put the death toll among civilians over the past week at 162, adding that over 662 others were wounded.

The rebel groups that unleashed the attacks are mainly Jaish al-Fateh rebels, in coordination with Ahrar al-Sham, Nour Ad-dien Zinki, the Islamic ... (More on P4)...(20)

Business Leaders to Submit Policy Advice to G20 Summit

BEIJING - Business leaders from G20 members have completed a report on policy advice and will submit it to the upcoming G20 summit.

The report makes 20 suggestions on economic growth, global economic and financial governance, international trade and investment and inclusive and interconnected development, Business 20 (B20) meeting China sherpa Yu Ping said Wednesday at a press conference.

The B20 is a forum for the private sector to make policy recommendations for



the annual G20 summit, which will be held in east China's Hangzhou in early

September. The B20 proposed an open network of governments, the private

sector, universities and research institutes working ... (More on P4)...(21)

Drone Crashes on S. African Nuclear Plant

CAPE TOWN - A drone crashed on the site of the Koeberg Nuclear Station near Cape Town on Wednesday in contravention of the nuclear safety regulations, authorities said.

The drone was returned to its owner without the investigation having been completed, said state-owned electricity utility Eskom. Eskom said it has subsequently suspended the Koeberg Safety officer as a precautionary measure to fully investigate the incident.

The matter has also been reported to the South African Police Service (SAPS) as Koeberg is a National Key Point, said Eskom.

No injuries or damage was reported.

Also on Wednesday, Eskom said it has placed the Koeberg Power Station Manager and the Plant Manager on precautionary suspension as a result of the distribution of documentation containing unauthorized facts and assumptions relating to Koeberg's Production Plan and in particular, the steam generator replacement. (Xinhua)

Trump under Fire for Suggesting Violence against Clinton

WASHINGTON - White House hopeful Donald Trump, already deserted by some fellow Republicans, came under sharp scrutiny Tuesday over controversial comments that some people interpreted as a threat of violence against his rival Hillary Clinton.

Trump's intended message was not immediately clear, but lawmakers, former national security officials and other critics expressed concern that he had advocated, possibly in jest, that Clinton or her Supreme Court nominees could be shot.

"Hillary wants to essen-



tially abolish the Second Amendment," Trump told a rally in Wilmington, North Carolina, referring to the US Constitution's clause that enshrines the right to bear arms. "If

she gets to pick her judges, nothing you can do, folks," Trump said. "Although the Second Amendment people - maybe there is, I don't know." (Agencies)

Russian Airstrikes Target Top Rebel Commanders in Syria

DAMASCUS - Russian warplanes struck a meeting place of top rebel commanders in Syria's northwestern province of Idlib on Wednesday, in addition to 12 other strikes targeting other rebel positions in that province, a military source told Xinhua. The Russian airstrikes targeted commanders of the Jaish al-Fateh rebel group in Binnesh, a town in the eastern countryside of Idlib, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

It was not clear if any of those targeted were killed or injured, the source said. Russian warplanes ... (More on P4)...(23)

Fire Kills at Least 20 Newborns at Baghdad Hospital

BAGHDAD - At least 20 newborn babies were killed on Wednesday in a fire at a hospital in the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, a police source told Xinhua. The incident took place at dawn when a fire broke out at the maternity wards in Yarmouk Hospital in western Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. "The children mainly died of suffocation from the thick smoke which spread in the wards," the source said. The fire is under investigation, but initial reports said that it was probably caused by "electrical contact," the source added. (Xinhua)

U.S. Slams Turkish Press Accusation against U.S. Think Tank

WASHINGTON - The allegation in Turkish press that the Washington-based think tank Wilson Center was behind a failed coup in Turkey is "absolutely not helpful," the State Department said Tuesday.

"I think this sort of conspiracy theory, inflammatory rhetoric ... is absolutely not helpful," State Department spokeswoman Elizabeth Trudeau told a regular press briefing. "Conspiracy theories get us nowhere."

The failed coup attempt in Turkey last month has

left more than 200 people dead and the authorities have since detained more than 18,000 people.

Pro-government Turkish newspapers have implicated a group of academics who were attending a conference organized by the Wilson Center on the island of Buyukada near Istanbul at the time of the coup. "There was nothing clandestine or sinister about the conference, which brought together specialists on Iran, Turkey, and the Middle East," Haleh Esfandiari, a ... (More on P4)...(22)

Philippine President Defends Criticism of U.S. Envoy

MANILA - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte defended on Wednesday his criticism of the U.S. envoy to the Philippines for meddling with Philippine domestic affairs, downplaying his statements against U.S. ambassador he made last week.

Duterte said in a speech at a military camp in Zamboanga del Sur in the southern Philippines that Philip Goldberg, the U.S. envoy, has indeed criticized his statement regard-

ing the rape and murder of an Australian missionary during the election campaign.

"They're simply true, anyway," Duterte said, adding that Goldberg's remarks was highly inappropriate and that the envoy should not have done it. "He is not supposed to meddle (with our affairs) because that's our business," Duterte said. Goldberg, at the height of the campaign in April, criticized Duterte for ... (More on P4)...(24)

Neighbor News

Rouhani Urges Enhanced Ties with UK



TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani on Tuesday called for an enhancement of ties with the United Kingdom, official IRNA news agency reported.

In a telephone conversation with the UK Prime Minister Theresa May, Rouhani congratulated her on taking the office and said Iran welcomes expansion of ties, including economic, banking and insurance sectors, with the United Kingdom.

The Iranian president

emphasized the need for collective international action against terrorism. He also urged for the implementation of Iran's nuclear deal, reached in July 2015, by the sides involved. For her part, May reaffirmed commitment of the British government to the implementation of the nuclear deal. She said the British government is encouraging the European and British banks to develop ties with the Islamic republic, according to IRNA. (Xinhua)

Pakistani Airforce Chief Tours Sri Lanka



COLOMBO - Air Chief Marshal Sohail Aman, commander of the Pakistan Air Force, has met with Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena on a two-day visit in Sri Lanka, a press release issued by Pakistan's high commission said here on Wednesday.

During the meeting, Aman appreciated the efforts of the Sri Lankan government to rid Sri Lanka of the menace of terrorism and reiterated Pakistan's continuous and unflinching support to Sri

Lanka.

The two "brotherly countries" have an excellent record of defense sector cooperation, he noted. Sirisena thanked Pakistan for the continuous assistance given to Sri Lanka for training its air force personnel.

He also strongly appreciated the all-out support extended by the Pakistani government to Sri Lanka at international forums.

The president said Pakistan is proved to be a true friend of Sri Lanka. (Xinhua)

UAE, Turkmenistan Freeing Iranian Inmates

TEHRAN, Iran - The United Arab Emirates has acquitted and will set free 29 Iranian prisoners held in the Arab country, Hassan Qashqavi, deputy foreign minister for consular, parliamentary and overseas-based Iranian-nationals affairs, said.

Turkmenistan will also free 130 Iranian prisoners from its prisons in the near future, Tasnim reported on Wednesday. Legal and consular

cases of these 130 are being followed up and the inmates are expected to enter Iran via the Bajgiran border checkpoint, the report stated. Sources say that around 400 Iranians are currently held prisoner in Turkmenistan.

Iranian Ambassador to Turkmenistan Mohammad Ahmadi recently said that 302 Iranian inmates were expected to be transferred to Iran soon. (Trend)

Ambassador of Japan Completing his Diplomatic Mission in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov received Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Japan Fumihiko Kato in connection with completion of his diplomatic mission in Uzbekistan, press service of the Uzbek Foreign Ministry reported.

During the meeting, Kamilov and Kato discussed topical issues of relations between the two countries.

The parties noted that regular Uzbek-Japanese dialogue in different formats allows to develop cooperation in the inter-

ests of both countries. Uzbek foreign minister congratulated the ambassador on receiving the degree of Honorary Doctor of the University of World Economy and Diplomacy and expressed appreciation for the significant contribution to the development of multifaceted cooperation between Uzbekistan and Japan.

Diplomatic relations between the countries were established in the end of January 1992. In January 1993, the Japanese Embassy was opened in Tashkent and in February 1996 - the Uzbek embassy in Tokyo. (Trend)