

# Merkel Sees no Reason for EU to Lift Russia Bans over Ukraine

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says the European Union should keep the sanctions against Russia because of what she called Moscow's failure to honor its obligations under a peace deal on the Ukraine crisis.

Merkel said she was working with French President Francois Hollande "with all one's strength" to urge Ukraine and Russia to implement the Minsk peace agreement, which introduced a ceasefire in eastern Ukraine in 2014.

"I would like to be the first to lift the sanctions against



Russia," Merkel said on Thursday. "Unfortunately we haven't seen a fulfillment of the Minsk accord so far, but we are working with all our strength so that we come back to a relationship with Russia, which doesn't need sanctions."

She said the Minsk agreement "remains the yardstick for the future of the sanctions."

The United States and the EU imposed a series of sanctions on Russia in the summer of 2014 for allegations that Moscow is arm-

ing... (More on P4)...(26)

## PKK Militants Claim Responsibility for Bombing Attack in Eastern Turkey

ANKARA - The Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) militant group on Friday claimed responsibility for a suicide car bomb attack targeting a police station in the eastern Turkish city of Elazig on Thursday, according to a statement on a PKK website.

At least three police officers were killed and 217 wounded, 85 of them police officers in the attack. The Elazig bombing followed another blast late Wednesday, also blamed on the PKK, in Turkey's

eastern province of Van, which injured at least 73 people, including 20 police.

Since July 2015, over 500 members of Turkish security forces and thousands of PKK members have been killed in confrontations inside Turkey and in northern Iraq, and more than 40,000 people have lost their lives in clashes with the PKK since 1984, when the group first started anti-government attacks. (Xinhua)

## UN Agency Reports Fewer Children Detained for Immigration Purposes

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Refugee Agency has reported a 14 percent decrease in the total number of children detained for immigration-related purposes across 12 countries last year, according to a report released on Thursday. The report entitled "Beyond Detention" said countries including Canada, Malta, Hungary and Israel have adopted national action plans aiming to end detention of children that are seeking asylum, and the decrease was observed



last year in comparison to data in 2014.

"There is strong evidence

that detention has a profound and negative impact on child health and devel-

opment, regardless of the conditions in which children... (More on P4)...(27)

## U.S. Strongly Denounces Terror Attacks in Turkey, Expresses Support

WASHINGTON - The United States on Thursday condemned "in the strongest terms" the terrorist attacks in southeastern Turkey, and expressed support to the NATO ally.

"Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families and loved ones of those killed, and we wish a speedy recovery to those injured," Ned Price, spokesperson for White House's National Security Council said in a statement. Five soldiers were killed

and six others injured Thursday by a roadside bomb believed to be planted by outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) militants in Turkey's eastern Bitlis province, Dogan News Agency reported.

The bombing followed another blast late Wednesday, also blamed on the PKK, in Turkey's eastern province of Van, which injured at least 73 people, including 20 police.

The U.S. remains steadfast... (More on P4)...(28)

## Water Situation in Aleppo Alarming as Fighting Rages: UNICEF

GENEVA - UNICEF on Friday warned that ongoing fighting in the northern Syrian city of Aleppo has meant that some two million people are without access to safe drinking water. "Access to safe water in Aleppo has continued to deteriorate over the past two weeks," UNICEF spokesman Christophe Boulierac told the media. "The situation is particularly worsening for civilians living in eastern parts of the city where taps have gone dry and families have no safe water through the



public network," he added. According to UNICEF estimates, some 100,000

children trapped in eastern parts of the war-torn city are facing outbreaks of wa-

terborne diseases. Heavy clashes between factions loyal... (More on P4)...(29)

## IS Suicide Attacks Kill 10 Libyan Soldiers in Sirte

TRIPOLI - At least 10 Libyan government soldiers were killed and 21 others injured on Thursday when IS militants in Sirte launched two suicide attacks, according to a military spokesman. Mohamed Al-Gasri, spokesman of the government force fighting against IS in Sirte, said the attacks took place in a position of the government fighters at the outskirts of the city. The death toll is expected to increase as some of the wounded fighters are in critical conditions. The UN-backed unity government in May has formed a military force, mostly from armed militias from Misrata, to fight against the increased dominance of IS in the city of Sirte, some 450 km east of the capital Tripoli.

The fighting in Sirte has so far killed nearly 350 government fighters and injured more than a thousand others. The government force said they are now controlling most of Sirte, with IS dominating only 10 percent of the city. (Xinhua)

## Turkey Vows to Defend Interests in Syria Despite Domestic Situation

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Thursday that Turkey will defend its interests in northern Syria despite of internal problems, NTV reported. "We are aware of everything that will make a fait accompli, which will endanger our perpetuity in Syria and Iraq, despite the internal affairs," Erdogan said while addressing representatives of Islamic civic organizations. The president referred to advance of Syrian Kurds that seized control of the Syrian town of Manbij from the Islamic State (IS) last week with other U.S-



backed forces. Turkey views the Kurdish militias in Syria as a hostile force, an extension of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), and rejects de facto autonomy of the group in northern Syria. Erdogan also criticized

western countries and institutions of not showing solidarity with Turkey after the July 15 coup attempt. Other than a few exceptions, Muslim states also failed to give support to Ankara, he added. (Xinhua)

## Russia Carries out Military Exercise in Crimea

MOSCOW - Russian Armed Forces have carried out an exercise involving the transfer of troops and equipment to the Crimean peninsula from the mainland, the Russian Defense Ministry said Friday. It said in a statement that the exercise involved vessels of the Black Sea Fleet, including the large landing ship Tsezar Kunikov, diesel-electric submarine Stary Oskol, several minesweeping ships and missile cruisers, as well as railway trains and river vessels.

The troops participating in the drill also rehearsed destructing groups of saboteurs and repelling... (More on P4)...(30)

## 12 Killed, 36 Injured by IS-Launched Mortar Barrage in Iraq

TIKRIT, Iraq - At least 12 displaced people were killed and 36 others wounded on Thursday in a mortar barrage by the Islamic State (IS) militants on a displacement camp in Iraq's northern central province of Salahudin, a provincial security source told Xinhua.

The incident occurred in the morning when IS militants fired many mortar rounds on a displacement camp at an abandoned cement factory in north of the town of Baiji, some 200 km north of Baghdad, the source said on condition of anonymity.

The camp was established to receive hundreds of displaced... (More on P4)...(31)

## Russia says Ready to Support UN Proposal for 48-Hours Ceasefire in Aleppo



GENEVA - The United Nations' Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura said Thursday night he was informed that Russia was ready to support his proposal of a 48-hour ceasefire in order to provide humanitarian assistance to the Syrian city of Aleppo. "The Special Envoy welcomes the Russian Federation statement, and the United Na-

tions humanitarian team is now set to mobilize itself to respond to this challenge," the UN envoy said in a statement. "The United Nations count on the Russian Federation to deliver their part, regarding, in particular, the adherence of the Syrian armed forces to the pause, once it comes into effect," he added. (Xinhua)

## Syrian Jets Renew Striking Kurdish-Dominated Areas in Hasakah

DAMASCUS - Syrian warplanes on Friday struck areas under control of Kurdish militants in the country's northeastern city of Hasakah for the second straight day, a monitor group said.

The Syrian airstrikes targeted positions of Kurdish militant groups in the

northern and northwestern part of the city, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said. The UK-based watchdog group said the airstrikes were coupled with clashes between Syrian forces and Kurdish militants. It added that at least 25 people, including 10 children, ... (More on P4)...(32)

## Nieghbor News

### Xi Vows to Promote China-Myanmar Partnership

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping on Friday pledged to promote the China-Myanmar comprehensive strategic co-operative partnership and bring more tangible benefits to the people of both countries.

Xi made the remarks during a meeting with Myanmar's State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi, who began a five-day official visit to China on Wednesday.

Xi welcomed Suu Kyi's visit and praised her efforts to advance the China-Myanmar friendship, saying that China stands ready to work with Myanmar to ensure the two peoples will always be

good neighbors, friends, brothers and partners.

He pointed out that China will support Myanmar's choice of development path and its efforts to safeguard national stability, promote economic growth, and maintain social harmony.

In order to develop bilateral ties, the Chinese president called on the two sides to strengthen political guidance.

"China stands ready to maintain high-level contact and people-to-people exchanges with Myanmar as well as enhance communication and mutual trust," Xi said. (Xinhua)

### Pakistani PM Calls for Timely Progress on CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told the cabinet on Thursday that the projects in the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) were the top priority of the government and concerted efforts should be made to ensure timely progress.

The cabinet was given a detailed briefing on the progress of the CPEC projects and the prime minister directed the Ministry of Planning, Development and Reform to ensure completion of the first batch of projects in energy and infrastructure sectors by 2017-18.

Sharif told the ministers

that speedy progress on these projects was necessary for addressing the existing shortfalls and future demands, a statement from the PM Office said.

"The completion of early harvest projects will go a long way in elimination of load shedding by summer of 2018," the statement quoted the premier as saying.

He noted that significant progress was being made on the western route of the CPEC project. Employment opportunities would be generated for the local populace which would generate economic activity and enhance national wealth. (Xinhua)

### Zarif, Cavusoglu Discuss Regional Developments in Tehran

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu held key talks in Tehran on bilateral relations and the latest developments in the Middle East.

"The Turkish foreign minister made a short visit to Tehran yesterday to follow up on the agreements and consultations held between the two countries during Zarif's visit to Ankara last week," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi said on Friday.

He added that the Thursday negotiations between the Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers in Tehran lasted for five hours.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry official noted that during Zarif's visit to Ankara and his talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and other senior officials on August 12, the sides agreed to hold intensive negotiations at different levels.

Qasemi said the two countries' senior officials would hold several meetings at different levels in the near future. Speaking in a joint presser with Cavusoglu in the Turkish capital, Zarif said Tehran and Ankara have a common goal to improve cooperation on the fight against terrorism and extremism despite their differences on some issues. (Presstv)

### Turkmenistan to Host Global Sustainable Transport Conference

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan will host the Global Sustainable Transport Conference on Nov. 26-27, the Turkmen government said in a message. The conference will be held in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat in accordance with the UN resolution titled "Towards comprehensive cooperation among all modes of transport for promoting sustainable multimodal transit corridors", adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2015.

A wide range of topical issues have been proposed for the conference agenda.

The Conference will

bring together key stakeholders from governments, the private sector, and civil society to engage in dialogue that emphasizes the integrated and cross-cutting nature of sustainable transport.

All modes of transport - road, rail, aviation and maritime - will be addressed as well as transport both in urban and rural areas, energy and transport, public transport, countries in special situations, road safety and financing for sustainable transport, while looking at the same time how to find a new paradigm for transport sustainability. (Trend)