

Kerry Says Hopes Talks with Russia on Syria 'Nearing the End'

NAIROBI - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday talks between the United States and Russia on military cooperation in the fight against Islamic State in Syria were nearing an end, with technical teams meeting this week to discuss details.

"We are in indeed engaged currently in ongoing conversations, and it is my hope that we are reaching the end of those discussions one way or another," Kerry told a news conference during a visit to Kenya.

"In the next days our team will meet this week, and depending on where those discussions go, it is very possible, very likely, that Foreign Minister (Sergei) Lavrov and I would meet," he said. "But that decision has to be made on the basis of where we are in the next couple



of days."

Kerry said the "Syrian travesty" had gone on for too long and it was imperative that powers supporting the Syrian regime - Russia and Iran - and those backing the opposition - the United States and its Middle East partners - came together to end the fighting.

Kerry's proposal would have Washington and Moscow share intelligence to coordinate air strikes against the al Qaeda-affiliated Nusra Front and prohibit the Syrian air force from attacking moderate rebel groups.

Meanwhile, Iran said on Monday Russia had stopped using an Iranian air base for strikes in Syria, bringing an abrupt halt to an unprecedented deployment that had been criticized both by the White House and some ... (More on P4)...(23)

Putin Ready to Host Mideast Peace Talks: Sisi

CAIRO - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi said his Russian counterpart and close ally Vladimir Putin wants to host an Israeli-Palestinian summit to revive peace talks, in an interview published Monday.

Sisi told state newspaper editors that he believed Israel was increasingly convinced of the need for a peace deal, saying it was a "positive sign."

But Palestinian infighting between the Islamist Hamas rulers of Gaza and Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas's Fatah in the

West Bank remained an obstacle, he said in the interview.

Talks between Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abbas have been suspended since 2014, despite a push by Washington and France to resume the peace process. Sisi, who is seen as having good ties with both Israel and Abbas's Palestinian Authority, has also been pushing for a resumption of negotiations.

"Putin has told me that he is ready to receive both (Abbas) and Netanyahu in ... (More on P4)...(24)

Germans will be Asked to Stockpile Food and Water 'in Case of A Catastrophe'

BERLIN - Germany is planning to urge its citizens to stockpile food, water and other supplies in the event of a catastrophe or armed attack.

According to a report by German broadcaster Deutsche Welle (DW), citing the Frankfurter Allgemeine Sonntagszeitung newspaper, the move would be the first of its kind since the end of the Cold War.

The proposal is reportedly contained in a government civil-defense-strategy

document, which says that people should stock 10 days worth of food and a sufficient supply of water, energy, money and medicine that would allow them to stay put long enough for the government to respond.

The mood in Germany has been unsettled recently following a number of horrific incidents. In the latest violence, on July 24, a Syrian suicide bomber injured 15 people at a music festival in the central German town of Ansbach. The same day, a Syrian refugee killed a



woman and injured two others with a machete in Reutlingen. Just days previous, an ISIS-inspired attacker was shot dead after stabbing several people on

a train in the south of the country.

The huge influx of refugees - Germany accepted more than a million last ... (More on P4)...(25)

Clinton Camp Announces New \$80 Million Fall TV Ad Buy

WASHINGTON - According to an aide, the campaign has reserved \$80 million worth of TV ad space in battleground states to take them through the fall campaign.

The buy - which includes \$3 million in additional ads for the remainder of August and nearly \$77 million for September and October - is for Florida, Pennsylvania, New Hampshire, Iowa, Nevada, Ohio, North Carolina, as well as the Omaha area of

Nebraska.

It does not include the battleground states of Colorado and Virginia, where earlier this month the campaign temporarily stopped airing ads due to strong poll numbers. (A campaign aide explained that while there are no plans to go back on the airwaves in either state, they may decide to do so in the future.)

In addition, the campaign has purchased \$15 million in radio ads. (Agencies)

Indonesia Beefs up Measure to Counter Radicalism

JAKARTA - The Indonesian government strengthens efforts to stop and counter the spread of radicalism in the country which has been targeted by the global militants, a senior official disclosed here on Monday.

A meeting at the security chief ministry decided to expand participation in the country's counter-terrorism effort and formulate an effective way to stop the penetration of the danger.

"We will establish a task force comprising senior

officials from ministries, so that an effective step to fight the danger can be formulated," Suhardi Alius, head of the country's counter-terrorism agency said after the meeting. The efforts would also focus on de-radicalism across the country, which has been hit by a series of major suicide bombings since 2000, he said.

The official cited that the use of technology information is among the priorities to block the spread of the danger as the facility has been intensively

used by militants for communication, spreading radicalism, and coordination on the launch of terrorist strikes.

Earlier this month, Indonesian police foiled a plot to launch rocket strikes to Singapore's Marina Bay from Indonesia's Batam Island. Such plan was found out in the militants' on-line communication, police has disclosed.

Indonesian youngsters have been among the main targets of radicalism in the country, police has said. Poverty has also

often factored to the penetration. Last week, Indonesian President Joko Widodo stressed commitment to strongly fight against militants, saying there is no place for them to grow in the country.

President Widodo called on the people to be alert on the danger of militants' plots despite their high profile leader, Santoso, was shot dead by Indonesian armed forces recently. Santoso had been one of the IS coordinator of strikes in Indonesia. (Xinhua)

Sarkozy Announces New French Presidential Bid

PARIS - Former French leader Nicolas Sarkozy on Monday announced he will seek his party's nomination to stand in next year's presidential election. "I have decided to be a candidate in the 2017 presidential election," Sarkozy, who was president between 2007 and 2012, wrote in a foreword to a new book to be released Wednesday and seen by AFP. Sarkozy also posted a link to the extract on his Twitter account. "The next five years will be filled with danger but also with hope," wrote the 61-year-old conservative, who had made no secret of his ambition to return to the top job.

He listed five major challenges for France, which included defending French identity, restoring lost competitiveness and enforcing state authority. The announcement of his bid to secure the nomination of his opposition Republicans at a party primary in November comes in the midst of an impassioned debate over the place of Islam in French society. Sarkozy said France's "top battle" was over how "to defend our lifestyle without being tempted to cut ourselves off from the rest of the world." (AFP)

Japan to Spend Extra 45 Bln Dollars on Economic Stimulus Package

TOKYO - Japan plans to spend additional 45 billion U.S. dollars to prop up its economy under a second extra budget for fiscal 2016, local media reported Monday.

Under the extra budget, 713.7 billion yen (7.11 billion U.S. dollars) will be used to improve welfare including supporting child rearing, and distributing cash to low-earners to boost consumer spending, the Kyodo news quoted government sources as saying.

About 1.41 trillion yen (14 billion U.S. dollars) will be allocated to improve infrastructure to attract foreign



tourists and facilitate agricultural exports.

Meanwhile, roughly 434 billion yen (4.32 billion U.S. dollars) will be spent to support fundraising by small and midsize companies, and revitalize local economies. ... (More on P4)...(26)

In addition, a total of 1.97 trillion yen (19.63 billion U.S. dollars) will be earmarked for disaster prevention and reconstruction of areas hit by earthquakes. The plan of extra budget is expected to be approved ... (More on P4)...(26)

S.Korea and U.S. Begin Drills Despite North Korea's Threat of Nuclear Strikes

SEOUL - South Korea and the United States began annual military drills Monday despite North Korea's threat of nuclear strikes in response to the exercises. Such fiery rhetoric by Pyongyang is not unusual. But the latest warning comes at a time of more tension following the defection of a senior North Korean diplomat and a U.S. plan to place a high-tech defense missile system in South Korea. The North's military said in a statement Monday that it will turn Seoul and Washington into "a heap of ashes through a Korean-style pre-emptive nuclear strike" if they show any signs of aggression toward the North's territory. The North's "first-strike" units are ready

to mount retaliatory attacks on South Korean and U.S. forces involved in the drills, according to the statement, carried by Pyongyang's state media.

South Korea's Unification Ministry expressed "strong" regret over the North's warning, saying the drills with the U.S. are defensive in nature. Seoul and Washington have repeatedly said they have no intentions of invading Pyongyang. The Ulchi Freedom Guardian drills that began Monday for a 12-day run are largely computer-simulated war games. The training involves 25,000 American troops and 50,000 South Korean soldiers, according to the U.S. and South Korean militaries. The drills ... (More on P4)...(28)

Japan Wants Forum to Boost Trade with Africa

NAIROBI - Japan is expected to use the sixth Tokyo International Conference of Africa's Development slated for Nairobi, Kenya this week to boost trade relations between the nation and the continent at a time when it is trailing behind its Asian peers.

According to data released Monday by the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS), while Japan's monthly exports to Kenya average 67.4 million U.S. dollars, India ships into the East African nation goods worth 193 million dollars and China's exports stand at 233 million dollars. In the January-May pe-

riod, according to the KNBS data, Japan's exports to Kenya stood at 339 million dollars.

During the same period, India was recorded at 965 million dollars while China at 1.2 billion dollars, according to the government agency.

Japan's top exports to Kenya consist of iron and steel products and motor vehicles.

"This conference will bring both immediate and long-term benefits to both Kenya and Japan. We expect to strengthen existing bilateral relations with Japan," said Devolution Cabinet Secretary Mwangi Kiunjuri. ... (More on P4)...(27)

France Destroys More Targets in IS Stronghold in Syria: Ministry

PARIS - French fighter jets conducted more air strikes against the Islamic State (IS) targets in Rekka, its stronghold in Syria, the country's defense ministry announced on Monday.

On Aug. 21, French air strikes destroyed "a number of combat positions, arm caches and manufacturing sites of explosives

and heavy weaponry," the ministry said.

Four Rafale and four Mirage 2000 fighter jets as well as an Atlantique 2 maritime patrol aircraft had been used during operation. A dozen cruise missiles hit several targets "in the heart of territory controlled by the terrorist group," it added. The ... (More on P4)...(29)

Nieghbor News

Foreign Ministers of China, Japan, ROK to Meet this Week



BEIJING - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi is to meet counterparts from Japan and the Republic of Korea (ROK) in Tokyo on Wednesday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said Monday. The ministers will review trilateral cooperation, discuss development directions and exchange views on issues of common concern. Japan will chair the event, the eighth of

its kind.

Lu said China expects this meeting to help maintain the momentum of cooperation among the three countries and promote the process of East Asia regional integration.

He called for efforts to bring about an East Asian economic community by 2020 and more contributions to regional peace, development and prosperity. (Xinhua)

Russia Confirms Withdrawal of Warplanes from Iranian Base

MOSCOW - Russia has withdrawn its military aircraft from Iran's Hamadan air base for strikes in Syria, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov confirmed on Monday.

"Currently, all aircraft of the Airspace Force involved in the operation are on the territory of the Russian Federation," Konashenkov said in a statement. Further use of the base by Russian warplanes

will be done in accordance with bilateral agreements with Iran and depend on the situation in Syria, he added.

Earlier in the day, the Iranian government said Russia has stopped using the base for military operation in Syria. Beginning on Aug. 16, Russian bombers took off from the Hamadan base in western Iran for three consecutive days to strike terrorist targets in Syria. (Xinhua)

Pakistani Forces Launch Fresh Offensive to Further Choke Militants' Cross-Border Movement



ISLAMABAD - Pakistani troops are battling militants in a rugged mountainous region to deprive them of one of their remaining few bases and to block a key route they use for cross-border movement, recent army accounts have confirmed.

Hundreds of soldiers, backed by air power, launched the fresh major offensive in the Khyber tribal agency near the Afghan border on Aug. 16, as part of a broader strategy to secure all border regions and dozens of militants have been killed as a result and their hideouts destroyed in the Rajgal Valley since the launch of the operation, army officials said.

Officials believe that militants had been exploiting the difficult terrain to enter Pakistan and Afghanistan to carry out terrorist attacks, after the Pakistani authorities introduced new monitoring systems at official crossing points.

The army said the operation, codenamed "Khyber-3", was necessary to shut down movement through the Rajgal Valley along the Pak-Afghan border and to "reinforce troops' deployment and to effectively check and

guard against terrorists' movement along high mountains and all-weather passes in the Khyber Agency."

Previously there were no checks on the movement of the militants as the Rajgal Valley was not in control of local forces until the ground and air operation was launched.

Currently, the ground forces have advanced into the valley and security officials insist the offensive will continue until the area is completely secured and cleared of the militants who are believed to have been using the valley for their hideouts, after they were expelled from other areas, the officials said.

People familiar with the area have also noted that the Rajgal Valley is very close to the Afghan border, and militants would typically use this route to easily cross the border as the mountainous valley is covered by forests and the militants would use the coverage to hide there. After the offensive, however, it will now be difficult for the militants to operate covertly and breach the border, as Pakistani ground troops are moving towards the valley to take back control. (Xinhua)