

U.S., Russia Achieve Clarity on Truce in Syria, Details to be Finalized

GENEVA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry told press on Friday that talks with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov had made much headway, with minor details remaining to be addressed in view of brokering a new cessation of hostilities for war-torn Syria.

"Today I can say that we achieved clarity on the path forward," Kerry told press late Friday evening.

"We have completed the vast majority of those technical discussions which were primarily focused on making this cessation of hostilities real, and improving the level of humanitarian assistance, thereby getting the parties



to the table so we can have a serious negotiation about how to end this war," he added.

Lavrov confirmed that the long day of meetings in a luxurious hotel in Geneva had enabled both delegations to make progress.

"We still need to finalize minor issues, that is why our experts will continue in Geneva next week," he said. These face-to-face discussions followed Kerry's meeting with Lavrov in Moscow last month, a meeting the Russian side described as "very useful" on Friday. Lavrov also reminded that that dialogue is key to build trust and reduce areas of misunderstanding between both nations. (Xinhua)

Erdogan, Putin Vow Joint Efforts to Fight all "Terrorist Organizations"

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin stressed the importance of cooperation against all "terrorist organizations" in a phone conversation Friday, Erdogan's office said in a statement.

Erdogan informed Putin of the Euphrates Shield operation in Syria's Jarablus launched by the Turkish military and the U.S.-led coalition to sweep the Islamic State (IS) terrorists from the border. Two leaders also agreed to enhance efforts to deliver humanitarian aid to Syria's Aleppo, state-run Anadolu Agency reported. The conversation generally focused on bilateral relations, recent developments in Syria and the fight against terrorism. They also agreed to ... (More on P4)...(23)

Turkish President Vows to "Spoil" Game of Terror Groups

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Friday voiced his country's determination to "spoil the game" of terror organizations amid growing deadly attacks following a failed coup bid last month.

"Stop grappling with this nation!" the president said in his speech made at the inauguration of Istanbul's third bridge that links Asia and Europe over the Bosphorus Strait. "The blood that you have been shedding in Turkey, Syria,

Iraq and Afghanistan is enough."

Turkey, already overshadowed by a series of terror attacks over the past year, has been rocked by a spate of bombing attacks in the wake of a coup attempt on July 15, with the latest ones hitting a wedding ceremony and a police checkpoint respectively, killing 54 civilians and 11 police officers. The attacks are blamed on the Islamic State and the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), whose militants are fight-



ing the government forces in southeastern Turkey. "They are using children as suicide bombers, dressing their small bodies with bombs," Erdogan said in his speech. Hours earlier, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim declared a "total war" against terrorism. (Xinhua)

Clinton Receives First Intelligence Briefing as Nominee

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. - Hillary Clinton received her first national security briefing Saturday as the Democratic presidential nominee, meeting with intelligence officials for an overview of the major threats facing the nation around the globe. Clinton attended the briefing for more than two hours at the FBI office in White Plains, New York, near her suburban New York City home. Republican Donald Trump received his briefing earlier

this month, a customary move for major party nominees but one that has been the subject of a political tussle during the campaign.

Trump was campaigning on Saturday in Iowa, headlining Republican Sen. Joni Ernst's annual "Roast and Ride" fundraiser at the Iowa State Fairgrounds. The celebrity businessman was not planning to join the 42-mile motorcycle ride that is part of the event but ... (More on P4)...(24)

Iran-India Relations can Help Eradicate Terrorism: Shamkhani

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says Iran and India have the potential to help put an end to crises in the Middle East and fight terrorism in the region.

"The constructive approaches and independent positions of Iran and India, as two regional powers, have prepared considerable grounds for cooperation in order to end regional disputes and crises and fight Takfiri terrorism," Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), Ali Shamkhani said in



a meeting with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi in New Delhi on Friday.

He criticized measures by certain regional countries for nurturing Daesh terrorists by supporting Tak-

firi ideologies and added that cooperation between Iran and India can prevent the ... (More on P4)...(25)

UN Agency Sets Aside \$500 Mln for Africa's Rural Transformation

NAIROBI - International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) has set aside 500 million U.S. dollars to be used in Africa to catalyze rural transformation in 2016, its president said on Friday.

IFAD President Kanayo Nwanze told Xinhua in the Kenyan capital Nairobi that 40 African countries will benefit from the funds.

"IFAD has prioritized rural transformation in Africa because it is a development process that is inclusive since it brings into play not just agricultural development but also social and economic development," Nwanze said on the sidelines of a World Bank Conference on the Future of Food in sub-Saharan Africa.

The funds will be used along the agricultural value chain in order to strengthen farmers' organization so that farmers can access markets. Most of the poor people in Africa live in rural areas, so unless the rural regions are economically vibrant, there cannot be national transformation, Nwanze said. ... (More on P4)...(26)

Contact Group on Ukraine Calls for Absolute Ceasefire in Donbas from Sept. 1

MINSK - The Trilateral Contact Group for settling the situation in Donbas on Friday agreed on the necessity to absolute ceasefire in the conflict zone starting Sept. 1, 2016.

The participants of the Group in Minsk, including representatives of the self-proclaimed Donetsk and Luhansk people's republics, agreed on the necessity to fully stop firing in the conflict zone starting Sept. 1, 2016, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Special



Envoy Martin Sajdik told reporters.

Sajdik recalled that he had acted in the past year with the same statements. "Unfortunately, a year has passed, and we have to do

it again," he said.

The diplomat expressed hope that the children in Donbas will quietly begin the school year.

Sajdik also informed the ... (More on P4)...(27)

African Issues Expected to be High on G20 Summit Agenda

JOHANNESBURG - With the G20 summit only days away, some officials and experts in Africa expect that African issues will also be high on the agenda, along with many other topics.

The summit, scheduled for Sept. 4-5 in China's eastern city of Hangzhou, would play a significant role in promoting and strengthening African trade and investment, South African Minister of International Relations and Co-operation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane told Xinhua in a telephone interview on Thursday.

As the only African member of the G20, South Africa plays a pivotal role in pursuing the interests of the African con-

tinents, she said. "We will continue to strive for a world economy that is inclusive of the developing countries' aspirations and interests," she said.

Tapiwa Gomo, a South African-based researcher on African development, said developed countries should learn from China's experience in cooperation with Africa.

"It is now imperative for the developed countries to acknowledge that as the world is a global village, countries need each other, including developing ones," he said. "The new economic order puts all countries -- developed and developing -- at par and as equal trading partners," he added. (Xinhua)

IS Prepared 1,000 Teenage Suicide Bombers: Iraqi Official

ERBIL, Kurdistan Region - The so-called Islamic State (IS) has trained many teenage suicide bombers in Mosul and Raqqa to use them in attacking different areas in Iraq and Syria, said the Iraqi Human Rights High Commission on Friday.

In a statement to Kurdistan24, Masrour Aswad, a member of the High Commission of Human Rights in Iraq, stated that his department acquired information that IS has trained 600 - 1,000 teenagers as suicide bombers.

"The teenagers are get-

ting trained in Mosul [northern Iraq] and Raqqa [northeastern Syria]," Aswad said.

According to him, their age ranges between 12-16-years-old, and almost all of them are from Iraq and Syria.

Aswad noted that IS continues to take advantage of teenagers because they are easily manipulated, directing them toward security forces or civilians' positions.

Moreover, he said that the use of suicide bombers was common among the ... (More on P4)...(28)

Turkish Warplanes Destroy Ammunition Depot in Northern Syria

ANKARA - Turkish warplanes destroyed an ammunition depot in Syria's northern border town of Jarablus on Saturday, military sources told CNN Turk.

The airstrikes have struck the People's Protection Units (YPG) militants, and were launched at 10 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) 8 kilometers south of Jarablus, according to reports. Meanwhile, six more

Turkish tanks enter Syria from southeastern Turkish province of Gaziantep early Saturday, local media reported.

The Turkish military has entered Syrian town of Jarablus as part of the "Euphrates Shield" operation, which reportedly aims at sweeping Islamic State (IS) militants off the border and prevent gains by Kurdish militia fighters in ... (More on P4)...(29)

Neighbor News

Iran Urges Concurrent Fight against Terrorism, State Sponsors

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official says extremism and Takfiri terrorism threaten security in the Middle East, urging all countries to simultaneously engage in the fight against terrorism and the states sponsoring the scourge.

In a meeting with Indian National Security Advisor Ajit Doval in New Delhi on Saturday, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) Ali Shamkhani said the simultaneous

campaign against terrorist groups and countries supporting them is the common duty of the international community with the purpose of protecting peace and stability.

Iran-Russia-India security cooperation

He expressed Iran's readiness to revive trilateral cooperation with India and Russia on security issues in the region, particularly on ways to prevent the spread of ... (More on P4)...(30)

Pakistan Welcomes Expansion of China's led AIIB

BEIJING - Pakistan has welcomed expansion of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and hoped it would have major role in boosting infrastructure network for common development in the regional countries. China's led bank is emerging as a strong source for providing financial support to member countries for improving the living-condition of their people, said an official of Pakistan Em-

bassy here Saturday. Pakistan is among the founding members of AIIB, and has been supporting China's initiatives of promoting cooperative partnership in the banking sector. Meanwhile, the AIIB will review more than 30 new membership applications beginning in September, and the bank may have as many as 90 members by early 2017, outstripping the membership numbers and ... (More on P4)...(31)

USAID Completed a Project on Land Reform in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan announces the completion of the implementation of the USAID on land reform and the restructuring of dekhkan farms in Tajikistan.

The report said that at the closing ceremony of the project took part the Ambassador of USA in Tajikistan Elizabeth Millard, the head of the State Committee for land management and geodesy of the RT Rajabboy Ahmadzoda, the representatives of donor countries, official government officials, and representatives of other stakeholders.

It is noted that the project was aimed at strengthening of land rights in order to facilitate the formation of a land market in Tajikistan.

"The project was aimed to support the restructuring of dekhkan farms and close cooperation with the intergovernmental

working party on land administration reform to revise the legislation to enhance land security in the interests of dekhkan farms and other land users. One of the main achievements of the project is to promote the adoption of a new law "On dekhkan (farming) households", which was approved in March 2016. This law allows dekhkan farms to be recognized as a legal entity and gives the farmers the right to build temporary structures on their land," - emphasize American Embassy.

It is also noted that the project for land reform and restructuring of dekhkan farms has increased the capacity of the government of Tajikistan for the introduction of progressive land legislation and policies with the aim of establishing a functioning land market. (Asia-Plus)

Turkmenistan to Open Office in IAEA

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan is opening its permanent representative office under the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov's decree said Saturday.

According to the message, the Turkmen embassy in Austria has been charged with the functions of the representative office.

Diplomat Silapberdi Nurberdiyev, heading the diplomatic mission, has been appointed permanent representative of Turkmenistan to the IAEA, the message said.

According to the message, the main department of civil defense and rescue operations of the Turkmen Defense Ministry will act as the national coordinating body for cooperation between Turk-

menistan and the IAEA. The department will be charged with the implementation of Turkmenistan's international commitments indicated the IAEA statute, the message said.

Turkmenistan gained full membership in the IAEA in early 2016.

Earlier, Turkmenistan cooperated with the IAEA on the basis of the Agreement for the Application of Safeguards in connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons signed in 2005.

IAEA headquartered in Vienna was established in 1957 as an independent intergovernmental organization in the UN system.

IAEA activity is aimed at developing the cooperation in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. (Trend)