

# NATO Allies Seek to Strengthen Turkey's Defenses

BRUSSELS - NATO allies sought on Tuesday to strengthen Turkey's defenses along its Syrian border after the United States withdrew its missile defense battery for modernization, leaving Ankara exposed as Russia intensifies actions in the area. Germany has also removed its Patriot battery supporting Turkish air defenses on the frontier, leaving Spain as lone NATO ally with Patriots there, and raising strategy questions at a time when Ankara says it faces Russian airspace violations. "We need to support Turkey," Canada's Foreign



Minister Stephane Dion said on arrival in Brussels for meetings with his

NATO peers, as offers of ships and aircraft began to trickle in from allies.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry will also push for other NATO mem-

bers to do more to protect Turkey as well as to step up actions in the U.S.-led

coalition against Islamic State militants in Syria, a senior State Department official said. "We have a number of allies who are considering increasing their effort to support Turkish sovereignty and security, but also looking at operations in Syria, adding to what the French have been doing over recent weeks," the official told reporters. "The secretary will make the case that we need even more." Foreign ministers are expected to formally agree on Tuesday to send more military hardware to Turkey as well as to step up actions in the U.S.-led

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## 888 People Killed in Violence Across Iraq in November: UN

BAGHDAD - A total of 888 Iraqis were killed and 1,237 others wounded in acts of terrorism, violence and armed conflict in November across Iraq, the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) said in a statement on Tuesday. The statement said that a total of 489 civilians, including 28 civilian policemen, and 399 security members, were killed, while 869 other civilians, including 49 civilian policemen, and 368 security members, were wounded. The UNAMI excluded

the casualties in Anbar province where fierce clashes are underway between the Iraqi forces and the Islamic State (IS) militant group which has seized most of the province. "In general, the UNAMI has been hindered in effectively verifying casualties in conflict areas," it said, adding "The figures reported have to be considered as the absolute minimum." It added that there are an unknown number of people who died from secondary effects of violence. *(More on P4)...*(18)

## Britain's Labour Launches Campaign to Stay in EU

LONDON - The Labour party on Tuesday launched its campaign for Britain to remain in the European Union, saying that the Paris terror attacks showed the need to "stand shoulder to shoulder" with European partners. The Conservative government has promised an in-out referendum by the end of 2017, with recent polls showing the public split neck-and-neck on the issue despite all the main parties campaigning to

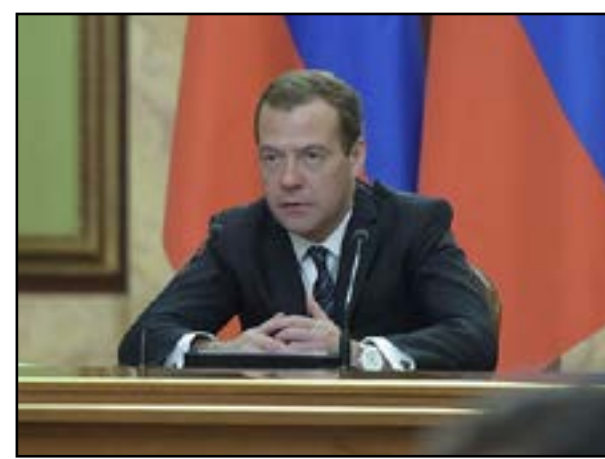
stay in. Former interior minister Alan Johnson launched his party's campaign to stay in the 28-member bloc in Birmingham, central England, arguing that Britain would be less safe on its own. "The first duty of any government is to keep our country safe and I firmly believe that leaving the EU would fail that test," he said. "The lesson from Paris is clear: to tackle terrorism we must stand shoulder to shoulder with our European partners." *(More on P4)...*(19)

## Russia Approves Detailed Sanctions Against Turkey over Downed Plane

MOSCOW - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev approved a raft of sanctions against Turkey in retaliation for the downing of a Russian warplane, but the measures stuck largely to what Moscow had previously threatened and had several notable omissions.

The order, published on the government's official website on Tuesday, listed agricultural products that Russia would no longer import from Turkey from Jan. 1, 2016 and formalized a ban on charter flights to Turkey

from Dec. 1. But it did not target important energy projects such as the Turkish Stream gas pipeline or food stuffs such as lemons or nuts, most of which Russia imports from Turkey. Relations between Moscow and Ankara have sharply deteriorated since Turkey shot down the Russian fighter bomber near the Syrian-Turkish border on Nov. 24. Turkish officials say the plane violated Turkish air space after being repeatedly warned to change its course. Moscow says the aircraft was



over Syria, where Russia is carrying out an air campaign backing Syrian President Bashar al-Assad in a four-year-old civil war. The government order also included a halt on the activity of an inter-governmental trade commission and restrictions on Turkish transport companies. (Reuters)

## Children make up 20 Pct of Refugee, Migrant Maritime Arrivals in EU: IOM

GENEVA - Out of the over 870,000 refugee and migrant sea arrivals recorded in Europe so far this year, one in five are children, International Organization of Migrants (IOM) said in a statement Tuesday. Figures released by IOM's Global Migration Data Analysis Center and UNICEF show the share of children is the largest in the Eastern Mediterranean route from Turkey to Greece and through the Western Balkans, where children account for over

25 percent of arrivals. With statistics showing that children make up 26 percent of sea arrivals in Greece and 10 percent in Italy, IOM warned children are the most vulnerable group of migrants and refugees reaching European shores. "The cold weather is a particular concern especially for children," said UNICEF representative Christopher Tidey, adding "children on the move are spending far too much time in the open." According to the joint brief, babies



and small infants, children with disabilities and special needs, children who have been separated from their families as well as unaccompanied and separated adolescents face sickness, injury, violence, exploitation, and trafficking. A third of all fatalities in the Aegean Sea in 2015 are accounted for by children, many of them infants, IOM indicated. Despite high risks, the agency reported the flow of refugee and migrant children remains unabated. (Xinhua)

## Agreement Reached to Evacuate Rebels from Syria's Homs City

DAMASCUS - Negotiations between the rebels and the Syrian authorities have been concluded on Tuesday with an agreement to evacuate the rebels from their last stronghold in Syria's central city of Homs, a well-informed source told Xinhua. Governor of Homs Talal Barazi has concluded a final agreement with the armed rebels in the district of al-Waer, west of Homs, on allowing the evacuation of the rebels as of next week, the official source told Xinhua. The deal also allows for the rebels who want to remain in Homs to surrender themselves to the authorities and clear their records, the source added. The authorities



will start settling the records of the armed men who want to return to their normal lives "in rebuilding their homeland and protecting Syria," the source added. Earlier in the day, a source told Xinhua that representatives of the Syrian government and opposition were negotiating the evacuation

of as many as 3,000 rebels from the last rebel-held neighborhood in Homs. The talks between rebel commanders and officials of Homs province aim to end the armed manifestation there by securing the evacuation of 3,000 rebels from the neighborhood into rebel-held areas in

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## UNRWA Collects Winter Donations for Palestinian Refugees

GAZA - The United Nations for Relief and Work Agency (UNRWA) announced on Tuesday that it has launched a campaign to collect winter donations for Palestinian refugees. An UNRWA press statement said "the campaign, which was named 'share us your warmth,' aims at backing its efforts to collect winter donations for Palestinian refugees in Syria, Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon and Jordan." The campaign, which was

launched on Tuesday, will go on until March 2016, and aims at improving the miserable living condition of the Palestinian refugees who are facing the dangers of the coming winter, according to the statement. UNRWA is trying its best to collect two million U.S. dollars to aid Palestinian refugees, especially families who lost their homes or became homeless due to the recent wars and conflicts. Meanwhile, ...*(More on P4)...*(21)

## Merkel Cabinet Backs German Role in Military Campaign Against IS

BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel's cabinet approved plans on Tuesday for Germany to join the military campaign against Islamic State militants in Syria, a big step for the country, which had long resisted a direct role in the conflict.

In response to an appeal from France after the Nov. 13 attacks in Paris which killed 130 people, Merkel's government agreed to send Tornado reconnaissance jets, refueling aircraft, a frigate to protect a French aircraft carrier, and up to 1,200 soldiers to the region. Germany will not join France, the United States and Russia in conducting air strikes in Syria, but the move is significant given the country's post-war history of avoiding foreign military entanglements and voter misgivings about getting involved in the conflict in the Middle East. A letter from the foreign and defense ministries said the deployment was aimed at preventing "terrorist acts" by IS and supporting France and other partners in their fight against the Islamic extremist group, which has taken large swathes of territory in Syria and Iraq.

Defence Minister Ursula von der Leyen sought to reassure voters, saying that Germany had not been drawn into war against its will but taken a conscious decision to get involved. She also made clear that there would be no cooperation between German forces and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad or his troops. (Reuters)

## India Seeks Preferential Trade Deal with Iran

TEHRAN - India says it is interested in signing a preferential trade agreement with Iran when sanctions are lifted against Tehran, a press report says. "We have a good relationship with Iran. It is a good market for us in the long term," the Economic Times newspaper quoted a "senior" commerce department official as saying. The official said the agreement, India's first trade pact with a West Asian country, is at a "conceptual stage", explaining that both the parties have shown interest in it but no negotiations have begun yet. "Iran is working towards WTO accession. In the build-up to that, they have shown interest. There are no negotiations at present. From India's perspective, the sooner the better that we sign an agreement," the official said. The Financial Times said a preferential trade agreement with Iran would offer India a foothold to tap other markets in the region. It put India's exports to Iran in 2015 at \$4.17 billion and its imports from the oil-rich country at \$8.95 billion. (PressTV)

## France Pledges 6 Bln Euros to Encourage Renewable Energy in Africa

PARIS - France would invest 6 billion euros (6.37 billion U.S. dollars) for the 2016-2020 period to help finance Africa's projects to renew its energy sources and cope with climate deterioration, French President Francois Hollande announced Tuesday. "Africa is not responsible of green gas emissions but it suffers desertification, food insecurity and poverty. There is an ecological debt that the developed world needs to pay to Africa," Hollande said. ...*(More on P4)...*(22)

## Nieghbor News

### Iran's Logic Based on Cooperation with Nations: Ayat. Khamenei

TEHRAN - Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei says Iran's logic is based on cooperation with other nations and peoples. Ayatollah Khamenei made the comments in a Tuesday meeting with the visiting Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Tehran, where the Leader pointed to "some exceptions with specific reasons" in such cooperation. "But excluding those certain cases, we respond to honest emotions and policies with

truthful emotions," said the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. The Leader further pointed out that Iran has launched an inter-faith dialogue between Islam and Christianity, which provides an opportunity to strengthen common ground and help the manifestation of truth. "Increasing commonalities and bringing facts to light" are a step towards creating the right perception and are among Islamic principles, he added. (PressTV)

### Pakistan Attracts \$3 Billion Foreign Investment in Renewable Energy

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani Government's push towards expansion of renewable energy infrastructure and direct negotiations with foreign governments has yielded results in terms of increased investment. Foreign investors have poured \$3 billion over the last year into the renewable energy sector in Pakistan, officials from the Alternative Energy Development Board (AEDB) have said. The largely untapped resource potential and a feed-in tariff regime has made renewable energy an attractive investment avenue, Chief Executive Officer of AEDB stated. The World Bank, through its Energy Sector Management Assistance

Program, has supported resource assessment in wind, solar, and biomass energy sectors. The Pakistan Government has also received support, following direct negotiations, from European companies that have expressed interest in setting up renewable energy projects. Amjad Awan, CEO of AEDB stated that letters of interest have been issued for 25 solar power projects representing 663 MW of cumulative capacity. All these projects are expected to be commissioned by 2018. The provincial government of Punjab has also issued letters of intent for 600 MW solar power capacity. (Monitoring Desk)

### Cooperation between Tajikand Russia Region Discussed in Dushanbe

DUSHANBE - The 4th conference to discuss cooperation between the regions of Tajikistan and Russia concluded in Dushanbe on Tuesday. During two days, the conference participants discussed ways to expand direct cooperation between the regions of the two countries. A special attention was paid to the supply of Tajikistan's fruits and vegetables to the Russia Federation against the backdrop of the current tensions between Russia and Turkey. "Kyrgyzstan has joined the Eurasian Economic Union (EEU) and Tajikistan now has

common border with this economic union, in which Russia takes an active part. There is an opportunity to expand cross-border cooperation," Deputy Minister of Economic Development of Russia, Alexander Tsibulsky said. According to him, about 60 federal subjects of Russia now have direct economic ties with Tajikistan and Russia accounts for 30 percent of foreign investment in Tajikistan. "The time has come to discuss the issue of establishment of the Russia-Tajikistan Business Council," Russian official noted. (Asia-Plus)

### Chinese, Russian Ruling Parties Hold Dialogue to Promote Development of Ties

BEIJING - China and Russia's ruling parties held a dialogue on party building and national governance to promote the development of the bilateral relations. The fifth meeting of the China-Russia ruling parties dialogue mechanism was held between the Communist Party of China (CPC) and United Russian party under the theme of "Party's ruling ability and modernization of national governance system" on Tuesday in Beijing. The two parties should make full use of the dialogue mechanism to exchange experience and learn from each other to promote further development of bilateral relations, said Liu Yunshan, a member of the Standing Committee of the CPC Central Committee

Political Bureau. Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, said in a congratulatory letter to the meeting that the party-to-party exchange is playing a "unique" role in the development of bilateral relations. The dialogue mechanism and forum between the two parties has built an effective platform for them to discuss strategic issues such as the two countries' relations and ruling party construction, Xi said. He added that the meeting will help the two parties strengthen capacity building and ability in national governance. Russian President Vladimir Putin echoed Xi in his congratulatory letter that the two

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