

Hollande in Iraq for Meetings with Iraqi Leaders, French Forces

BAGHDAD - French President Francois Hollande arrived in Baghdad on Monday to meet with French forces in Iraq and to hold talks with Iraqi leaders over the fight against the Islamic State (IS) militant group, Iraqi official television reported.

Hollande is expected to meet with Iraqi President Fuad Masoum, Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and other top Iraqi officials to discuss the fight against the IS, the state-run Iraqiya channel said.

Hollande, who is traveling with Defense Minister



Jean-Yves Le Drian, is also expected to visit Arbil, the capital of semi-autonomous region of Kurdistan, and meet with Kurdish leader Masoud Barzani. He will visit French troops taking part in the anti-IS offensive in northern Iraq. France has around 500 troops fighting alongside forces of a U.S.-led coalition, the second largest contributor to the international coalition that has carried out thousands of air strikes against the IS in Iraq and Syria, and provided military equipment, ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Indian Candidates Can not Use Faith, Caste to Get Votes: Court

NEW DELHI - India's top court on Monday ruled that election candidates cannot use religion or caste to seek votes, describing them as corrupt practices under electoral laws.

The ruling on Monday is considered significant as it comes months before elections in Uttar Pradesh state where dominant campaign issues are caste affiliations and the building of a Hindu temple in place of

a 16th century mosque demolished by Hindu hardliners. Legislature elections are also due in Punjab, Uttarakhnad, Goa and Manipur states.

Hindus constitute nearly 80 percent of India's 1.25 billion people, while Muslims comprise 14.2 percent and the remaining 6 percent adhere to other religions, such as Christianity, Sikhism, Buddhism and ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

US General Sees Islamic State's Capability Waning in East Mosul

ERBIL, Iraq - The declining effectiveness of Islamic State attacks against Iraqi forces in eastern Mosul suggests the militants are starting to run out of resources with the campaign in its third month, a U.S. general told Reuters. Since the U.S.-backed offensive began on Oct. 17,

elite troops have retaken a quarter of the city in the biggest ground operation in Iraq since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion that toppled Saddam Hussein. Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi has said the group will be driven out of the country by April. The second phase of ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Germany's Merkel to Skip Davos on Eve of Trump Presidency

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel is steering clear of the World Economic Forum in Davos, a meeting expected to be dominated by debate over the looming presidency of Donald Trump and rising public anger with elites and globalization.

Merkel has been a regular at the annual gathering of political leaders, CEOs and celebrities, traveling to the snowy resort in the Swiss Alps seven times since becoming chancellor in 2005. But her spokesman told

Reuters she had decided not to attend for a second straight year. This year's conference runs from Jan. 17-20 under the banner "Responsive and Responsible Leadership". Trump's inauguration coincides with the last day of the conference.

"It's true that a Davos trip was being considered, but we never confirmed it, so this is not a cancellation," the spokesman said. It is the first time Merkel has missed Davos two years in a row since tak-



ing office over 11 years ago and her absence may come as a disappointment to the organizers because her reputation as a steady, principled leader fits well with the theme of this year's conference. The German government declined to say what scheduling conflict was ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Trump Aide Says U.S. Sanctions on Russia May be Disproportionate

WASHINGTON - A top aide to President-elect Donald Trump said in an interview aired on Sunday that the White House may have disproportionately punished Russia by ordering the expulsion of 35 suspected Russian spies.

Incoming White House press secretary Sean Spicer said on ABC's "This Week" that Trump will be asking questions of U.S. intelligence agencies after President Barack Obama imposed sanctions last week on two Russian in-

telligence agencies over what he said was their involvement in hacking political groups in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. Obama also ordered Russia to vacate two U.S. facilities as part of the tough sanctions on Russia.

"One of the questions that we have is why the magnitude of this? I mean you look at 35 people being expelled, two sites being closed down, the question is, is that response in proportion to the actions taken? ...*(More on P4)...(26)*



Public Notice

اطلاعیه

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الف) به اطلاع تمام مشتریان بانک الفلاح افغانستان رسانیده میشود که اشخاصیکه صورت حساب بانکی خود را بدست نیآورده اند لطفا صورت حساب بانکی خود را از نمایندگی های مربوطه بانک الفلاح تا تاریخ 31 جنوری/31 جولای هر سال بدست آورند. همچنان مشتریان محترم میتوانند با نمایندگی مربوطه خود تماس گرفته و صورت حساب بانکی خویش را به اساس ارایه تقاضا و برانت بانک از خساره به دست آورند. مشتریان گرامی نیز میتوانند صورت حساب خویش را توسط نمایندگی با صلاحیت خود و یا به ذریعه ایمیل بدست آورند. لذا از همه مشتریان تقاضا بعمل میآید تا صورت حساب خویش را وصول نموده و بعد از بدست آوردن صورت حساب بانکی، اگر کدام تغییر و یا اشتباه در آن وجود داشته باشد، باید بانک را به شکل تحریری تا 15 فبروری / 15 اگست اطلاع دهند.

در صورتیکه مشتری صورت حساب بانکی خویش را بدست نیآورد و یا ایمیل آدرس را معرفی ننماید و اشتباه را هم در صورت حساب به بانک اطلاع کتبی ندهد، بانک الفلاح لمیند مسؤولیت هیچ نوع تغییر و اشتباه در صورت حساب بانکی را نخواهد داشت.

ب) به اطلاع تمام مشتریان بانک الفلاح لمیند که از حسابات بانکی خود در جریان 12 ماه گذشته استفاده نکرده اند رسانیده میشود که طبق پالیسی در رابطه به حفظ نمودن منافع سپرده گذاران اگر یک حساب بانکی توسط مشتری در جریان 12 ماه گذشته مورد استفاده قرار نگیرد آن حساب به حالت غیر فعال مبدل گردیده و برداشت پول تازمانیکه حساب دوباره توسط مشتری شخصاً فعال نگردد مجوز نمیشد.

لذا به اطلاع تمام مشتریان محترم رسانیده میشود که اگر آنها از حسابات بانکی خود در جریان 12 ماه اعتبار از تاریخ آخرین معامله از حساب استفاده نکرده باشند حساب بانکی شان به حالت غیر فعال تبدیل میشود.

ج) به اطلاع تمام مشتریان بانک الفلاح لمیند که بیلانس حسابات بانکی شان فعلاً صفر بوده و خواهان ادامه فعالیت بانکی در حسابات شان هستند، رسانیده میشود که به نمایندگی مربوطه شان تا مدت 21 روز پس از تاریخ نشر این اطلاعیه مراجعه نمایند تا حسابات خود را فعال نموده و به فعالیت بانکی خود ادامه دهند، در غیر آن بانک بدون اطلاع بعدی حسابات فوق را بسته خواهد نمود.

Nieghbor News

Iran Welcomes Peace Talks on Syria

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday welcomed the imminent peace talks on Syria in Kazakhstan. Rouhani expressed the hope that the upcoming international peace talks on the future of Syria in Astana of Kazakhstan would be a major step towards the resolution of conflicts in the Arab states. Resistance against terrorism and belief in diplomacy are two major criteria in tackling the problems in the region in general and Syria in particular, the Iranian president said in a televised speech on Sunday.

The Islamic republic is following three objectives in the region, he said,

adding that his country is constructively working towards stability and security in the region as they are prerequisite for the developments on the regional countries.

Terrorism is also a regional and global threat and Iran has assisted regional countries at their request, including Syria and Iraq, in their struggle against terrorism.

As the third policy of Iran in relation to the Middle East, he urged the international community to respect the sovereignty of Syria and its recognized borders, saying that Iran is, in principle, against any change of borders in the Middle East region. (Xinhua)

PPP Welcomes Imran's Decision to Field Candidates Against Zardari, Bilawal

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Peoples Party (PPP) has welcomed the announcement made by Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf (PTI) chairman Imran Khan that his party will field candidates against Asif Ali Zardari and Bilawal Bhutto-Zardari.

"The PPP upholds and welcomes the democratic right of Imran Khan and indeed of anyone to contest elections against its leaders anywhere and at any time in the country and the party looks forward to a healthy democratic electoral contest in a not too distant future," said PPP spokesperson Senator Farhatullah Babar in a statement here on Sunday. Addressing a public meeting in Garhi Khuda Bakhsh on the ninth death anniversary

of former prime minister Benazir Bhutto, Mr Zardari had declared that he and his son would contest the election to enter the present parliament in order to give tough time to the Nawaz Sharif government.

Later, the PTI chairman announced that his party would contest the elections against the two PPP leaders, who are expected to contest by-elections for National Assembly seats of Nawabshah and Larkana. Mr Babar said: "The PPP hopes and urges Imran Khan to firmly stand by his public pronouncement and not go back on it thereby exposing himself once again to the charge of making U-turns at the drop of the hat." (Monitoring Desk)

Uzbekistan to Continue Strengthening Peace Atmosphere: Mirziyoyev

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's priority is to continue strengthening the atmosphere of peace and calmness, interethnic and civil consent in the country, said the country's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in his congratulatory message to Uzbek citizens. "We had a lot of bright, happy days, great success and achievements in our country," he noted. "We overcame all difficulties with dignity thanks to people." The Uzbek president

said also that the year 2016 leaves a bright trace in the history of Uzbekistan as the year of the 25th anniversary of the country's independence, and noted the progress reached by representatives of various professions, as well as Uzbek athletes at the Olympic and Paralympic Games. Mirziyoyev recalled that the year 2017 has been declared as the year of dialogue with the people and human interests in Uzbekistan. (Trend)

Gas Dispute with Turkmenistan not Political: Iran

ASHGABAT - The natural gas dispute between Iran and Turkmenistan does not constitute a political issue, says Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi.

"The issue is rather a technical and financial one," Qasemi told reporters on Monday during his bi-weekly press conference.

He said that gas cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan is nothing new and it goes as back as 1996.

"In 2006, gas ties between the two countries reached a new point as Turkmenistan, the national gas company of Turkmenistan, increased the gas price its was selling to Iran and for special reasons Tehran accepted the new price terms," he said. The two countries were

negotiating under a positive atmosphere to reach an agreement on the issue but with a possible prospect for talks to fail, Iran prepared itself by deploying technical and distribution wherewithal in its northern regions, Qasemi said.

"The natural gas Iran imports from Turkmenistan is not of a high volume and it tends to be a specific amount," he said. Natural gas imports from Turkmenistan constitute just two or three percent of Iran's domestic production, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. "Through saving some of the natural gas produced domestically, Iran can compensate for the probable shortages," Qasemi said. (Monitoring Desk)