

Obama Stresses Anti-Terror Cooperation in Phone Talks with Leaders

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama underscored the counterterrorism cooperation over the phone with leaders of France, Britain and Tunisia, the White House said.

While speaking with French President Francois Hollande, Obama offered his condolences for the loss of life that took place last week in a terrorist attack near Lyon, France, and underscored U.S. commitment to continue ongoing counterterrorism partnership with France, the White House said in a statement.

On Friday, a group of attackers stormed an



American-owned gas town of Isere, southwest person and attempting to blow up the plant.

In his telephone talk with Tunisian President

Beji Caid Essebsi, Obama offered condolences and support following the terrorist attack near Sousse, Tunisia Friday. At least 37 people were killed after at least one gunman opened fire at tourists on a beach resort in Sousse.

Obama reaffirmed U.S. readiness to assist with the investigation and pledged to continue strengthening cooperation on counterterrorism and broader security issues with the Tunisian government.

Obama also expressed condolences over the phone to British Prime ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Neighbour News

Lausanne Agreement can Help Final Nuclear Deal: Iran's FM

TEHRAN - The solutions to Iran's nuclear program agreed in early April in Lausanne of Switzerland can help the settlement of the differences in a run for a final nuclear deal, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif told reporters upon arriving in Vienna on Tuesday.

"If there is an agreement to be reached, it should be inclusive of both western demands and ours. I think the deal should be based on Lausanne agreement which creates a possibility for a solution," Zarif was quoted as saying by official IRNA news agency. Iran is seeking a "fair and balanced" deal, he said in the fresh remarks.

The Iranian foreign minister was back to Tehran on Sunday to consult with Iran's top officials following several rounds of meetings with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and his European counterparts in Vienna. Zarif, along with Iran's atomic chief Ali-Akbar Salehi, and president's special aide Hossein Fereidoun arrived in Vienna on Tuesday to hammer out a long-awaited deal at the last hours of the self-imposed deadline. Earlier on Saturday, Iran's senior nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi had said that parts of the solutions on Iran's nuclear issue reached in Lausanne early April are not feasible. (Xinhua)

Russia Vows Military, Political Support for Damascus: Syrian Minister

DAMASCUS - Russian President Vladimir Putin has promised continued military, political and economic support for Syria, a Syrian minister said.

"I have obtained a promise from President Putin on a Russian military, economic and political support to Syria," Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said in Moscow at a joint press conference with his Russian counterpart, Sergey Lavrov.



Al-Moallem said that the Russian leader stressed the need to found a regional alliance to fight terrorism, according to Syrian state news agency

SANA. Lavrov, for his part, stressed that Moscow will keep supporting Syria by all means to enable it to put an end to terrorism, calling on countries in the region to put aside their differences and work together to battle rampant terrorism. The top Russian diplomat, meanwhile, highlighted the risk of using the extremist groups in the region by some countries as tools to achieve temporary gains. (Xinhua)

German Prosecutors Charge Man with Islamic State Membership

BERLIN - German prosecutors say they've charged a 22-year-old German-Turkish dual national with murder and membership in a terrorist organization on allegations he fought with the radical Islamic State group in Syria. Prosecutors said Tuesday that Kerim Marc B., whose last name wasn't given in accordance with German privacy laws, is alleged to have joined the Islamic State group after traveling

to Syria via Turkey in 2013.

They say he received military training in Syria and fought in multiple engagements, "killing at least one person." Prosecutors say he temporarily returned to Germany in early 2014, went back to Syria last July and resumed fighting. He was arrested in Turkey in January and sent back to Germany in March and was taken into custody at Duesseldorf airport. (AP)

Xi Stresses CPC Governance at County Level

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping has called on secretaries of Communist Party of China (CPC) committees at county level to be loyal to the Party, take initiative in economic development and serve the people wholeheartedly.

Xi made the remarks on Tuesday when meeting with 102 individuals selected from more than 2,800 county-level Party secretaries across the country for their outstanding work.

While congratulating them, the president extended greetings to all Party members ahead of the 94th anniversary of the CPC's founding on Wednesday.

"When counties are governed, the world is at peace," Xi said, quoting an ancient Chinese saying. "In our Party's organizational structure and the country's regime structure, the county is a key part that links higher and lower levels as well as a significant foundation for economic development, people's livelihoods and social stability." According to the president, honoring outstanding county-level Party secretaries aims to set an example for all Party members and officials. "A county-level Party committee is a frontline headquarters for the CPC's governance, and a Party secretary is the commander in chief," Xi said, acknowledging the huge pressures placed on them. He urged these officials to follow Party codes of conduct and adapt themselves to China's plateauing economic growth. "County-level Party secretaries should be trailblazers for development... take hold of the reform drive and guide the people to contribute to social and economic development together," Xi said, underlining poverty relief work. (Xinhua)

EU Approves Greek Capital Controls

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) gave formal approval to Greece's imposition of capital controls in its troubled country on Monday, after an immediate, preliminary assessment by the European Commission, saying Greece's decision was justified.

The central Bank of Greece Sunday evening recommended a bank

holiday and the imposition of capital controls as from Monday in response to widespread withdrawals of money from its banks by Greek citizens over the weekend after negotiations between international lenders and Greece soured.

"Under the current circumstances, the stability of the financial and banking system in Greece con-

stitutes a matter of overriding public interest and public policy that would appear to justify the imposition of temporary restrictions on capital flows," Financial Services Commissioner Jonathan Hill said in a statement. "Maintaining financial stability is the main and immediate challenge for the country," he stressed. (Xinhua)

China to Try to Curb CO2 Emissions Earlier Than 2030: PM

PARIS - China will try to curb its carbon emissions before a 2030 target, its prime minister said during a visit to Paris where he announced the world's biggest greenhouse gas emitter's contribution to United Nations climate talks. "China's carbon dioxide

emission will peak by around 2030 and China will work hard to achieve the target at an even earlier date," Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang said in a statement after meeting with French President Francois Hollande. China aims to reduce its CO2 emissions per

unit of gross domestic product by 60-65 percent from 2005 levels, it said. The world's second largest economy also aims to increase the share of non-fossil fuels in its primary energy consumption to about 20 percent by 2030, the statement added. (Reuters)

Obama Signs Trade Bills into Law, Giving Boost to TPP Talks

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama on Monday signed several trade bills into law, including the legislation giving him the so-called fast-track authority to negotiate trade deals with other countries, injecting new momentum to the stalled Asia-Pacific trade talks. "The trade authorization that's provided here is not the actual trade agreements. So we still have some tough negotiations that are going to be taking place," Obama said at a signing ceremony for the trade legislation at the White House. After weeks of

fighting over the trade bills, U.S. Congress finally agreed last week to give the president fast-track authority, also known as trade promotion authority, to submit trade deals to Congress that cannot be amended, which would speed up the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) negotiations that had stalled for months. Other TPP participants have signaled that they would like to put their best offers on the table and conclude the trade deal only after the Obama administration has secured the fast-track authority from Congress. (Xinhua)

IS beheads Women for in Syria

AL-MAYADEEN, Syria - Islamic State (IS) has beheaded two women in eastern Syria, the first time the jihadist group has decapitated female civilians, activists say. The women were killed along with their husbands in the city of Deir al-Zour and the town of al-Mayadeen, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights reported. All four were accused of sorcery.

IS has previously decapitated the bodies of Kurdish female fighters killed in battle. The group has also beheaded men for

witchcraft in Iraq. The group's extreme interpretation of Islamic law has also seen gay men thrown off buildings and women stoned for adultery. Last week, IS militants in Syria hanged two youths from a beam by their wrists after accusing them of not fasting during the Islamic holy month of Ramadan. The killing of people for sorcery is not unique to IS. The authorities in Saudi Arabia have also beheaded both men and women on similar charges. (BBC)

Death Toll from Indonesian Plane Crash Rise to 50: Official

JAKARTA - An official at Medan chapter of Indonesia's Search and Rescue Agency (Basarnas) said on Tuesday that the death toll from the crash of C-130 Hercules in the capital of North Sumatra province Medan may rise as people on board the ill-fated plane were more than 55.

"The death toll continues to rise, not only 30 as the plane's manifest document says 55 people on board," an official at Basarnas Medan chapter Hisar Turnip told Xinhua by phone. He feared that the death toll will continue to rise as the plane also hit several houses on the ground with many civilians were still inside those houses. As of Tuesday afternoon, Adam Malik state hospital received 30 bodies from the crash site

of which five were the crews of the plane. The crash of C-130 Hercules plane occurred at noon, two minutes after the plane departed from Polonia airport located in Medan's downtown area. The plane crashed in a housing cluster and business district around Jamin Ginting road, Padang Bulan area near the airport.

The plane was loaded with logistic supplies, to be transferred to Indonesia's Natuna island. Besides carrying the military supplies, some civilians intending to go to Natuna island was allegedly on board. The plane, manufactured in 1964, among 28 ones operated by Indonesian air forces, initially departed from its base in Malang, East Java at 11:48 a.m. local time. (Xinhua)

Turkey Concerned by Reports of Fasting Bans on Uighurs

ANKARA - Turkey says it has conveyed "deep concerns" to China over reports that minority Chinese Uighur Muslims were being prevented from worship and fasting during the Muslim month of Ramadan. In a mildly worded statement issued Tuesday, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said that the Turkish public was "saddened" by the reports and that Turkish concerns were relayed to the Chinese ambassador in Ankara.

The Uighurs complain of heavy restrictions by the Communist Party, such as bans of fasting by party members, civil servants, teachers and students during Ramadan, as well as generally enforced bans on children attending mosques, women wearing veils and young men growing beards. Turkey has close cultural ties to the Uighurs but is also keen to maintain good relations with China. (AP)

Belarus Sets Presidential Election for Oct. 11



MINSK, Belarus - The parliament of Belarus has set the next presidential election for Oct. 11, about a month earlier than originally planned. Tuesday's decision intensified a debate among opposition parties on whether to put forward candidates for an election all but certain to be won by Alexander Lukashenko, who has ruled the former Soviet republic with an iron grip since 1994.

After Lukashenko won a fourth term in 2010 with what election officials said was 80 percent of the vote, mass protests broke out on the streets of Minsk, the capital. They were violently broken up by police, who arrested hundreds of protesters and seven of the nine candidates that ran against Lukashenko. Two of the candidates were later sent to prison, where one still remains. (AP)

5.7 Magnitude Earthquake Hits Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - An earthquake measuring 5.7 on the Richter scale jolted parts of eastern and northwestern Pakistan on early Tuesday morning, said the authorities. The Pakistan Meteorological Department (PMD) said the tremors hit the country at 3:07 a.m. local time and its epicenter was located at Afghanistan-Tajikistan border region. The PMD further added that the focal depth of the quake was determined at 171 km. Local Urdu TV channel Geo reported that the quake hit parts of east-

ern Punjab province, northwest Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province and the capital city Islamabad. The tremors caused panic among the people, however, no loss of life or property has been reported yet. Pakistan, especially its northern and northwestern areas, are located in one of the most earthquake prone zones of the world, with high vulnerability to earthquakes. Geographically, Pakistan lies in the collision zone of the India tectonic plate to the south and the Eurasian plate to the north. (Xinhua)

Electronic Database on Drug-Related Crime Launched in Uzbekistan

BISHKEK - The National inter-agency database on drug-related crimes has been launched in Uzbekistan, reports Podrobno.uz, referring to the director of the National Center on Drug Control under the Cabinet of Ministers of Uzbekistan Ahmad Mansurov. "A single, unified database on drug-related crimes is launched in Uzbekistan. Unfortunately, every Ministry and Agency has their own understanding of how to configure the database, how to work with an array of information. Therefore, the National Center on Drug Control, as the

Coordinator of the work in Uzbekistan, proposed the idea to create a single database and attracted the OSCE as a partner in this business," said Mansurov. 66 thousand drug-related crimes are registered in the database today. The base is running, but not fully yet. Now, the process of improvement has started with the assistance of OSCE, he added. According to the OSCE Project Coordinator in Uzbekistan, Gyorgy Szabo, an organization funds the further development and widespread adoption of a database on drug-re ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Sisi Pledges Tougher Laws at Prosecutor's Funeral

CAIRO - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi pledged on Tuesday tougher laws against militants at the funeral of Egypt's prosecutor general, according to the official MENA news agency. "Arm of justice is chained by the law. We're going to use every judicial method to fight against terrorists, including death sentence and life imprisonment," Sisi said in a televised speech at the funeral. Egypt's Prosecutor General Hesham Barakat succumbed to injuries he sustained earlier on Monday in a

bomb attack in Cairo. Nine other people were injured in the blast that targeted the country's top prosecutor, according to the Egyptian Ministry of Health. The bombing came after Sinai-based Ansar Bayt al-Maqdis militant group, an affiliate of the Islamic State regional militant group, posted a video clip on Monday supposedly showing attacks in May that killed two judges and a prosecutor. The group has vowed more attacks on judges in revenge for mass life and death sentences handed down to Islamists. (Xinhua)