

NATO Pledges Support for Anti-IS Coalition: Jens Stoltenberg

WARSAW - The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has pledged more support for the U.S.-led coalition to fight the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq, NATO's Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg announced on Saturday. Leaders from the alliance's member states agreed in principle on the second day of the NATO Warsaw Summit to send surveillance aircraft to assist the coalition, according to Stoltenberg. NATO will also start a



training and capacity-building program for soldiers in Iraq, Stoltenberg said at a press conference at the two-day summit. Stoltenberg said he believed training the local forces was much more efficient than locating a large number of NATO troops in military activities. The alliance also plans to launch operations in the Mediterranean Sea to help the European Union fight against human trafficking, according to Stoltenberg. (Xinhua)

Obama Cuts Short Visit to Spain after Dallas Shootings

MADRID - U.S. President Barack Obama will cut short his visit to Spain and travel to Texas where five policemen were killed on Thursday night, Spanish state TV network RTVE has reported, quoting a White House spokesman. The shootings in Dallas have forced a change to the schedule for Obama, who is the first U.S. President to make an official visit to Spain in 15 years. Obama will visit Dallas early next week. Obama will cancel his planned visit to Seville,

where he was due to arrive shortly before midnight on Saturday. Obama's original schedule was to travel from Seville to the U.S. military base of Rota in southwest Spain, before arriving in Madrid on Sunday night. According to the original arrangements, Obama will have lunch with Spanish King Felipe VI at the Royal Palace on Monday and hold meetings with Spanish political leaders and young Spaniards. Now, he has to cancel his visit to Seville and several meetings.



"The President will leave (Saturday) night," informed the White House spokesman, Josh Earnest, who added that on Sunday ... (More on P4)...(21)

UN Relief Agency "Extremely Concerned" with Situation in Syrian City of Aleppo

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) is "extremely concerned at the unfolding situation in Aleppo," particularly the situation for the estimated 300,000 people trapped in the eastern part of the Syrian city, a UN spokesman told reporters here Friday. Those Syrian people were trapped in eastern Aleppo, the largest city in Syria, due to heavy clashes along Castello road, the only road in and out of this part of the city, Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at

a daily news briefing here. "Heavy fighting over the past few days has continued to put civilians at risk of death and injury while effectively cutting off humanitarian access to people in need of assistance." "This follows intensified fighting by all parties to the conflict in Aleppo city and surrounding areas in recent weeks, including reports of airstrikes, shelling, and heavy clashes, causing many civilian casualties and injuries," Haq said. "It has also caused damage to schools, hospitals, and other ... (More on P4)...(22)

Kremlin Urges NATO to Drop Anti-Russia Allegations

MOSCOW - Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov on Friday urged the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to give up absurd allegations about a Russian threat. Claims about threats coming from Russia are absurd and "absolutely short-sighted," Peskov said, adding that Moscow hopes that "common sense and political will aimed at avoiding confrontation will gain the upper hand" at the two-day NATO summit in Warsaw, capital of Poland, which began Friday. A meeting of the NATO-Russia Council at the am-

bassadorial level is scheduled for July 13. Peskov said that NATO military deployment near Russian borders based on anti-Russia assumptions undermines the potential for interaction. Russia is always open to dialogue and is interested in mutually beneficial cooperation, he noted. NATO should strengthen confidence-building measures and joint anti-terrorism efforts instead of "searching for an enemy in Russia," Peskov said. Russia has repeatedly complained about NATO's ... (More on P4)...(23)

U.S., Polish Presidents Discuss Increased NATO Presence in Central, Eastern Europe

WARSAW - Polish President Andrzej Duda and U.S. President Barack Obama held a meeting ahead of the Warsaw NATO Summit in Poland, discussing bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of increased NATO's presence in Central and Eastern Europe. "We are glad that the United States support so firmly the strengthening of NATO's military potential in our part of Europe," Duda said after the meeting. "We were happy to welcome American soldiers participating in the Ana-



konda military exercises, we were happy to see them attending so numerous, we are also happy that the U.S. heavy brigade

will be active in the territory of Poland," Duda added. He also expressed hope that the Warsaw Summit would further

strengthen the two countries' cooperation. For his part, Obama said Poland will notice the ... (More on P4)...(24)

Syrian Army Extends Truce for Additional 72 Hrs

DAMASCUS - The general command of the Syrian army announced Saturday an extension of a recently declared truce for additional 72 hours, state news agency SANA reported. The nationwide ceasefire was initially established for 72 hours on Tuesday, the first day of the Muslim feast of Eid al-Fitr. The announcement of the ceasefire didn't stop the battles in Syria's northern city of Aleppo, where the army was advancing till becoming so close to cut



off the only remaining rebel supply route in Castello in northern Aleppo. The regime of silence also didn't stop the rebels from

raining down on government-controlled areas in Aleppo with tens of improvised rockets, which killed 40 people and wounded

G20 Trade Ministers Meet to Strengthen Trade Cooperation



SHANGHAI - The G20 Trade Ministers Meeting opened on Saturday in Shanghai to discuss ways to boost trade and investment cooperation. Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng, who chairs the meeting, said in the opening speech that the meet-

ing is of great significance in promoting trade and investment cooperation. The two-day meeting is held in advance of the G20 Hangzhou Summit, which is slated for Sept. 4 and 5. China took over the G20 presidency in December last year. (Xinhua)

Over 14,000 S. Sudanese Children Still in Armed Conflict: UNICEF

JUBA - The UN children's agency, UNICEF said some 14,200 South Sudanese children still remain in armed conflict. "Out of the 16,000 children serving various armed groups in South Sudan, only 1,800 children have been released," UNICEF South Sudan communications officer, Tim Irwin, told Xinhua in an interview in Juba on Friday. He said that nearly 1 million children have been displaced and 400,000 are out of school since the start of the more than two years of conflict. Irwin said the most affected areas are Unity, Jonglei and Upper Nile states where brutal conflict took a toll on the economic and social fabric. "There are still people in parts of Unity state who are inaccessible. Even in Wau, there are areas we are not able to reach," Irwin said, noting that they need unrestricted access to people ... (More on P4)...(25)

Iran Offers Anti-Daesh Cooperation with PG States



TEHRAN - Iran's ambassador to Kuwait says his country is ready to cooperate with the Arab countries of the Persian Gulf in fighting the Takfiri terrorist group of Daesh. Interviewed by Kuwait's Al-Jarida newspaper, Alireza Enayati said the country was open to such cooperation with its regional neighbors against all Takfiri groups

and their affiliates. The Islamic Republic has always confronted these groups and is aware of the dangers posed by them to the region and the world, he said, noting, "Our military advisors are engaged in fighting Daesh in Iraq and Syria." Iran has so far successfully thwarted Takfiris' attempts against ... (More on P4)...(26)

Death Toll of Aleppo Rocket Fire Rises to 40

DAMASCUS - The death toll of the rocket attack that was launched by the rebels against government-controlled areas in Syria's northern city of Aleppo a day earlier rose to 40, state news agency SANA said Saturday. Over 200 people were also wounded on Friday when rebel rocket fire struck districts in western Aleppo. Pro-government websites and news TVs released footage of Friday's rebel attack on Aleppo, which came as a truce declared by the govern-

ment unilaterally is to end after midnight Friday. Government troops are very close to cutting off the Castello road, the only supply route connecting the rebel-held areas in the northern countryside of Aleppo province and the eastern part of Aleppo city. Aleppo, located near the borders with Turkey, is Syria's largest city and once an economic hub. It has been a focal point of clashes between the Syrian army and the rebels. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Bulgaria PM Due in Iran to Boost Trade Ties, Sign Investment Deal

TEHRAN - Bulgarian Prime Minister Boyko Borisov will pay an official visit to Tehran to sign an investment agreement and hold talks with senior Iranian officials on ways to improve trade and economic relations. Heading a delegation, Borisov will arrive in Tehran on July 11 for a two-day visit. The Bulgarian premier is set to sit down with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri. Bulgarian Economy Minister Bozhidar Lukarski had earlier said that Tehran and Sofia will sign an agreement to increase cooperation among small and medium enterprises and another on investment. He added that a memorandum of understand-

ing is also in preparation for establishing a partnership between Bulgaria's National Company Industrial Zones and Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization. Bulgaria's cabinet approved the draft of the MoU in June. The Bulgarian prime minister's trip comes as part of a series of visits by world leaders to Tehran after the implementation of a nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries in July 2015. Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia - plus Germany started to implement the ... (More on P4)...(27)

Pakistani PM Announces National Mourning for Philanthropist

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif announced a national mourning on Saturday for the country's most respected philanthropist, Abdul Sattar Edhi, who passed away at the age of 92 at a hospital in Karachi late Friday. National flags are lowered at half-mast across the country and people are paying tributes to Edhi, who had served hundreds of thousands of needy people and orphans in his life. He had donated his eyes and they were removed after his death according to his will, his son, Faisal Edhi, said. He will be

buried in his cloth. He was put on a ventilator after deterioration of his health on Friday, his son said. He was suffering from kidney failure, high blood pressure and diabetes. Edhi's funeral will be offered at the Karachi's National Cricket Stadium in the afternoon. The prime minister has also approved a state funeral for Edhi, who was once nominated by Pakistan for Nobel Prize. Nawaz Sharif also announced award of Pakistan's highest civil award "Nishan-e-Imtiaz" post-humously for his unprecedented ... (More on P4)...(28)

Iran Seizes Largest Heroin Cargo Destined for Turkmenistan

TEHRAN - Iran's Customs Administration announced that it has seized over 500 kilograms of Heroin from a transit truck in the town of Dargaz in Khorassan Razavi province in Northeastern Iran. The custom officers of Lotfabad region in Dargaz seized a sum of 536.795 kilograms of heroin which was stashed in a red Volvo truck carrying a transit cargo of furniture from Turkey to Kyrgyzstan. After his arrest, the driver of the Volvo truck confessed that he was due to deliver the heroin cargo to a customer in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, and then continue the journey to Kyrgyzstan.

The truck driver, who is a Turkish national, had offered \$10,000 in bribe to Lotfabad customs officers to tempt them to let him through without inspection. In late June, Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli announced that the drug combat squads of Iran's Law Enforcement troops have seized more than 618,000 kilograms of illicit drugs across the country in the last Iranian year (ended March 19, 2016). "The Iranian police have seized over 618 tons of narcotics in the last year," Rahmani Fazli said, addressing a ceremony in Tehran today. The Iranian interior minister noted that ... (More on P4)...(29)

Kafolat Insurance Company Discusses with IFC Development of Insurance Market in Uzbekistan

BISHKEK - Kafolat Insurance Company met with a delegation of the International Finance Corporation headed by Andrew Zaripov, who is agri-advisor and operations officer for the IFC agricultural insurance project. The purpose of the visit was to study the current state of agricultural insurance market in Uzbekistan, as well as regulation of insurance market in the Central Asian country. The sides discussed prospects of developing insurance services. The IFC delegates provided detailed informa-

tion on the project to develop agri-financing in Europe and Central Asia. Zaripov particularly spoke about experience of the Corporation in development of agricultural insurance in Ukraine. Kafolat Insurance Company, in turn, briefed about the Company's activities and its position in the Uzbek insurance market. The sides thus agreed on establishing cooperation to work out new insurance products and joint efforts on further development of insurance market in Uzbekistan. (AKIpress)