

Terror Attack Kills 84 in France

NICE, France - A man drove a truck into crowds celebrating Bastille Day in the city of Nice yesterday and then opened fire, with 84 people losing their lives before the police shot him down, world media report. Hundreds were injured, many of them children. According to the police, the truck was loaded with weapons, including grenades.

Multiple sources note that the use of a truck as a weapon is new and signals the evolution of the terrorist threat. The Nice police were prepared for terrorist activity, and the fact that it



missed the attacker highlights the importance of this evolution.

France was a week away from ending the state of emergency installed af-

ter the terrorist attacks in Paris, which killed 130 and injured hundreds more.

Now, the state of emergency has been extended for three more months.

Witness and police reports describe a sequence of events that could have come straight out of a Stephen King novel. The truck accelerated and tore into the crowd, gathered on the Promenade in Nice to mark France's greatest national holiday. After driving through people for two kilometers, the driver began shooting into the crowds until he himself was shot and killed by the police.

Police said the driver, 31, had documents showing he had joint French and Tunisian citizenship. At ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

U.S. Official Holds Preliminary Discussions with Britain on Possible Trade Deal

WASHINGTON - A top U.S. trade official said Thursday that he has held preliminary discussions with British government officials about how the two countries might pursue a trade deal after Britain leaves the European Union (EU).

U.S. Trade Representative aid at a breakfast event that he had discussed a possible bilateral trade agreement with Sajid Javid and Mark Price, Britain's outgoing business and trade secretaries, earlier this week.

But he hasn't yet spoken

with Liam Fox, incoming secretary for international trade in the British new government headed by Theresa May, who took over as new Prime Minister on Wednesday.

Froman said the future trade relations between the United States and Britain will partly depend on Britain's new relationship with the EU, which will be negotiated by Britain's new government in coming months following the country's referendum vote to leave the 28-nation bloc last month.

"Will they have sover-



eighty over tariffs, will they have sovereignty over regulations... Until you get more clarity around that, it's hard to determine precisely what kind of trade relationship they might be able to negotiate with others," he said.

Froman's remarks come one day after House Ways and Means Committee Chairman Kevin Brady ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Italy Strengthens Anti-Terror Measures after Nice Attack

ROME - Italy has beefed up its terror threat security measures following the deadly terror attack in which a truck rammed into a crowd gathering for the French national day celebrations in Nice, local media said.

ANSA news agency said checks have been further strengthened at the Italian border with France in the northern town of Ventimiglia after the attack. "We had news that the fugitives could have headed for Italy, but we have no concrete evidence for now," a police officer was quoted as saying by

ANSA.

The Italian Interior Ministry convened a meeting of its anti-terrorism committee, while the Foreign Ministry activated its crisis management unit to follow the developments and check the possible involvement of Italian citizens.

In a statement published on its website, the foreign ministry advised Italians who are currently in Nice to avoid journeys and follow the advice of local authorities.

At least five Italians were reported as missing, in ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

UN Court Denies Involvement in South China Sea Arbitration

HAVANA - Cuba on Thursday once again urged the United States to end its so-called "wet-foot, dry-foot" policy, which gives Cuban immigrants special treatment.

As delegations from the two countries met in Havana for the latest round of bilateral talks on immigration, Cuban officials "once again expressed their deep concern for the persistence of the 'wet-foot, dry-foot' policy" and other laws that grant automatic entry "to those who arrive illegally, regardless of the ways and

means they use," Cuba's Foreign Ministry said in a statement. It added that Cuban immigrants receive better treatment than other immigrant groups.

The outdated laws "violate the letter and spirit of the Immigration Agreements in effect, through which both governments pledged to guarantee legal, safe and orderly emigration," the ministry said.

Cubans gambling on reaching U.S. shores via makeshift rafts and other precarious means can fall ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

New British PM Visits Scotland for Talks on Union, Brexit

EDINBURGH - New British Prime Minister Theresa May visited Scotland on Friday for talks with Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon here on the union of Britain and the future of the European Union (EU). Making her first visit less than 48 hours after taking office, May aims to emphasize her strong personal support for the union in talks with Sturgeon.

May will also affirm the British government's commitment to fully engage with the Scottish government in the forthcoming negotiations about Brit-



ain's exit from the EU, said a press release from the prime minister's office at 10 Downing Street.

May was expected to highlight "the precious bond"

between England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland and her commitment to "preserving this special union that has endured for centuries," as

well as her government's support to the people of Scotland in making decisions and policies. Earlier, Sturgeon said she ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Over 978,000 Syrians in Hard-to-Reach Areas Received Aid in 2016: UN

UNITED NATIONS - Since the beginning of 2016, more than 978,000 Syrians in hard-to-reach areas have received UN assistance, including food for at least one month, a UN spokesman said on Thursday.

That number included more than 364,000 people in besieged locations, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here, citing the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

"However, much more access is required," he said. OCHA reported on Thursday an inter-agency convoy was delivering food, health, nutrition, water and sanitation and other emergency supplies to the besieged Al-Waer neighborhood in Homs, a city in western Syria.

"This is the first of two convoys planned to the neighborhood, targeting 75,000 people in need,"



Dujarric said. "The last inter-agency humanitarian delivery to this area was on 16 June.

However, surgical items were removed during the loading." ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Cuba Urges U.S. to End Policy Illegal Immigration

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India Announces New FDI

NEW DELHI - The Government of India on Thursday announced a very liberalized new Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Policy and with the changes in the FDI Policy, India is now the most open economy in the world for FDI. The new amendments seek to further simplify the regulations governing FDI and make India an attractive destination for foreign investors. The new changes introduced in the FDI policy, summarized below, include increase in sectoral caps, bringing more activities under automatic route and easing of conditionalities for foreign investment.

1. FDI in Food Products manufactured/produced in India: Government of India has decided to permit 100% FDI under government approval route for trading, including through e-commerce, in respect of food products manufac-

2. FDI in Defence Sector up to 100%: Present FDI regime permits 49% FDI participation in the equity of a company under automatic route. FDI above 49% is permitted through Government approval on case to case basis, wherever it is likely to result in access to modern and 'state-of-art' technology in the country. In this regard, the following changes have inter-alia been brought in the FDI policy on this sector: 1. Foreign investment beyond 49% has now been permitted through government approval route, in cases resulting in access to modern technology in the country or for other reasons to be recorded. The condition of access to 'state-of-art' technology in the country has been done away with. ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

DPRK Defector Confesses Attempt to Abduct Children to South Korea

PYONGYANG - A defector from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said on Friday that he has committed "severe treason" by attempting to abduct two DPRK girls to South Korea.

On May 27, Ko Hyon Chol was caught trying to smuggle two girls, eight- and nine-year-old respectively, from the DPRK border to the South side. At a press conference, Ko accused South Korea's National Intelligence Service of plotting the whole case and the U.S. direct manipulation behind it. He said the two girls he chose came from an or-

phanage in the DPRK's northwestern province of North Pyongan.

Ko, 53, was born and brought up in the North Pyongan Province. He used to be a worker at a forestry public institution, but later started to engage in smuggling to earn more money, according to his confession at the conference.

On April 25, 2014, Ko succeeded in arriving in Incheon of South Korea via Southeast Asian countries and later began to take orders from South Korea's National Intelligence Service to collect ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

UNSC Slams Deadly Terrorist Attack in France

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council (UNSC) on Thursday "condemned in the strongest terms a barbaric and cowardly terrorist attack," which killed at least 80 people in Nice, France.

"The members of the Security Council reaffirmed that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security," the 15-nation

UN body said in a press statement. "Members of the Security Council underlined the need to bring the perpetrators of these terrorist acts to justice, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and other obligations under international law," the statement said. At 22:30 (2030 GMT) Thursday night local time, a truck drove at high speed into a crowd ...*(More on P4)...(33)*

Neighbor News

Coriant Chosen to Modernise Turkmenistan National Network

ASHGABAT - Using packet-optical transport equipment from Coriant, the Ministry of Communications of Turkmenistan has deployed a new national backbone network with best-in-class coherent DWDM, MPLS-TP, and service management technologies.

The network modernisation initiative enables the Ministry of Communications to cost-effectively scale transport capacity and improve transit connectivity to neighbouring countries, while introducing a new level of edge-to-core provisioning flexibil-

ity to enhance bandwidth services for government, enterprise, mobile, and residential customers. Based on the Coriant hiT 7300 multi-haul transport platform and the Coriant 7090 packet transport platform, the Ministry of Communications' new packet-optical transport backbone network connects all the major cities of Turkmenistan, with cross-border transit provided via long-haul terrestrial and submarine transmission links. The new network deployment supports growing ...*(More on P4)...(34)*

Tajikistan's Investment Portfolio Includes 70 Projects Totaling \$2.84 Billion

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's investment portfolio now includes 70 projects totaling 22.3 billion somoni (equivalent to 2.84 U.S. dollars), according to the State Committee on Investments and State-owned Property Management (GosKomInvest). Tajikistan's investment portfolio, in particular, includes 31 grant based projects, 18 loan based projects and 21 mixed-finance projects. Total volume of grant financing has reportedly amounted to 9.8 billion

somoni (equivalent to 1.25 billion U.S. dollars). "More than 1.2 billion U.S. dollars have been drawn in the framework of these projects since the beginning of the year, which is 44 percent of the total volume of grant financing," a source at GosKomInvest said. According to him, 14 new agreements totaling 133 million U.S. dollars have been signed over the first six months of this year for implementation of 10 investment projects. (Asia-Plus)

Pakistan Army Chief Confirms Death Penalty of 12 Hardcore Terrorists

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Army Chief General Raheel Sharif confirmed the death sentence on Thursday to another 12 "hardcore terrorists", who were involved in committing heinous offences related to terrorism, the military said.

An army statement said the terrorists were found guilty of "killing of civilians, attacking Armed Forces of Pakistan and Law Enforcement Agencies, destruction of schools and communication infrastructure."

These convicts were tried by military courts, a statement from the army's Inter-Services Public Relations said. The army said all the men had admitted their offences before the magistrates and the trial court. Eleven convicts belonged to the Tehreek-e-Taliban

Pakistan and one to sectarian group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi.

The army courts were set up after the terrorist attack on an army school in December 2014 for the speedy trial of the terrorism-related accused.

The convicts have the right of appeal to the president under the law, according to the legal experts. The President has previously rejected all mercy petitions in terrorism-related cases.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif had advised the president to reject all mercy petitions of the militants as they have been responsible for the killing of the security men and civilians.

It is the second time in less than three months the army chief has confirmed the death penalty to the militants. (Xinhua)

France's Mere Description of MKO as Violent not Enough: Iran Official

TERHAN - An official at the Iranian Foreign Ministry says it is not "adequate" for France to merely describe the terrorist anti-Iran Mujahedin-e Khalq Organization (MKO) as a "violent" group, as recently reported in the media.

The French Foreign Ministry said on Wednesday that it maintained "no contact" with the MKO, according to media reports. "Its (MKO's) violent and non-democratic inspiration has led several human rights organizations to underline its sectarian practices and its refusal to formally renounce violence," French Foreign Ministry spokesman Romain Nadal reportedly said at a press briefing on Wednesday. He was speaking following Iran's strong objection to a rally held in the French capital, Paris, by the MKO.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned French Ambassador to Tehran François Sénémaud on Tuesday to hand him a note of strong protest over the rally.

When asked about media reports on Nadal's remarks, a source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday described the reported French position as "inadequate." "Merely calling the MKO terrorist and violent and pointing to its sectarian behavior is not enough," the source said. "The French position comes even as the French have in recent years consistently regarded themselves as one of the European victims of the terrorist activities that are supported by certain reactionary countries and the godfathers and sponsors of al-Qaeda and Daesh." (presstv)