Obama Urges Britain to Stay in EU

dent Barack Obama has urged Britain to stay in the European Union (EU), saying that having Britain in the bloc "gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union," BBC reported Thursday.

The UK must stay in the European Union to continue to have influence on the world stage, Obama said in an interview with BBC.

"Having the UK in the European Union gives us much greater confidence about the strength of the transatlantic union," Obama told the British



broadcaster ahead of his visit to Kenya

The EU "made the world safer and more prosper-

ous," Obama was quoted

In the interview, Obama lauded Britain as Amer-

ica's "best partner" for its willingness to project power beyond "immediate self-interests to make this a more orderly, safer according to world," BBC.

The U.S. president also praised British Prime Minister David Cameron as an outstanding partner and congratulated the UK government for meeting NATO's target of spending 2 percent of GDP on defense, BBC said. Cameron has pledged to hold an "in or out" referendum on whether Britain should withdraw from the EU by 2017.(Xinhua)

France, Iran to Reinforce Cooperation Following Vienna Accord: Elysee

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande and his Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani both agreed to reinforce bilateral cooperation following the conclusion of the agreement in Vienna, said Thursday Hollande's presidential office, the Elysee, in a press release.

During a telephone conversation, Hollande and Rouhani examined the conditions of the imple-

GENEVA - The United

Nations Children's Fund

are being provided with

their education.



200,000 Yemenis Provided

with Catch-Up Classes Ahead

of Exams: UNICEF

Designed for students

enrolled in grades 9 to

mentation of the Vienna reinforce the bilateral coaccord, and agreed to operation to assure the

implementation of the accord.

The two presidents welcomed the Iranian nuclear agreement concluded on July 14.

The Elysee also announced in the press release that French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius will visit Iran on July 29. "I will be there next week. My colleague (Mohammad Javad Zarif) invited me. I was invited ...(More on P4)...(24)

Turkey Stages Raids against IS, PKK Amid **Waves of Terror Attacks**

ANKARA - One member of the Islamic State (IS) was killed on Friday morning during raids staged by the police across Turkey against the the IS and the outlawed Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) militants, private Dogan News Agency reported. Thousands of police officers kicked off the raids against the IS and the PKK members simultaneously in 13 provinces of Turkey after a wave of deadly terror acts in the past days.

A total of 251 people were detained in the raids, said a written statement by prime ministry on Friday. A total of 30 detainees, out of 90 people in Istanbul are foreign origins, local CnnTurk news broadcaster reported on Friday. The assault followed a series of IS suicide bomber attacks at the town of Suruc in the Sarnliurfa province of Turkey on Monday, which claimed 32 lives and wounded 104 others. (Xinhua)

UNITED NATIONS - port that Chitral District An estimated 285,000 has been badly hit, with people have been af- an estimated 285,000 fected by floods in Chi-people affected," said tral District, northwest Maestracci, noting that

on Thursday.

the Middle East.

gotiation."

Council open debate on

"Force will only exacer-

Thursday. The UN Office for the week have led to floodacross Pakistan, particu-

'Local authorities re- tracci.(Xinhua)

Floods Affect Around 285,000 People in Northwest Pakistan: UN

Neighbour News

Chinese Envoy Calls on

Palestine, Israel to

Resume Peace Talks

UNITED NATIONS - Pal-sides should be committed

estine and Israel should to taking the strategic op-

resume peace talks as tion of peace talks, ferment

soon as possible, and Chi-their confidence in peace

na is open to all the initia- and demonstrate their de-

the dialogue resumption, "China always believes

said a Chinese envoy here that to achieve an inde-

Wang Min, China's depu- estine and peaceful to re-

ty permanent representa- alize coexistence between

tive to the UN, made the Palestine and Israel are the

remarks at a Security only viable way out to ad-

'There is no winner in Wang. Wang also said that

conflict," said Wang, China hopes the Israeli

bate the hatred and hostilible measures to create the ity. All questions should conditions for peace talks,

be resolved through ne- including steps to halt the

Noting that the recent release the detained Pales-

situation between Pales- tinians and completely lift tine and Israel remains blockades against Gaza.

pendent statehood for Pal-

dress the question between

Palestine and Israel," said

government will take cred-

settlement construction,

tives that are conducive to termination for peace.

Pakistan, said a UN the exact number of spokesperson here on people injured is difficult to determine, due to the inaccessibility of Coordination of Hu- many affected areas.

tense, Wang said the two (Xinhua)

Parchin Visit only within Iran-IAEA Roadmap: Salehi

TEHRAN - A senior nuclear program in the Parchin military site ment, near the capital, Tehran, tor General issues" regarding Iran's 2015." (Agencies)

Iranian nuclear official Austrian city of Vienna. ys any visit to the After signing the agree will be carried out only Amano said that the based on a roadmap roadmap "sets out a agreed upon by Teh- clear sequence of acran and the UN nuclear tivities over the combody aimed at sorting ing months, including out outstanding issues the provision by Iran regarding the Islamic of explanations regardnuclear ing outstanding issues. program. "There is no It provides for techniseparate agreement for cal expert meetings, the visit to Parchin and technical measures and visits will be conducted discussions, as well as only within the frame- a separate arrangement work of the agreement regarding the issue of [with the International Parchin [site]." Amano Atomic Energy Agency added that the road-(IAEA)]," Head of the map enables the IAEA Atomic Energy Organi- to "issue a report setzation of Iran (AEOI) ting out the agency's fi-Ali-Akbar Salehi said in nal assessment of possian interview on Friday. ble military dimensions On July 14, Iran and the to Iran's nuclear pro-IAEA signed a road- gram, for the action of map for "the clarifica- the IAEA Board of Govtion of past and present ernors, by 15 December

manitarian Affairs says Overall, six casualties that heavy monsoon have been reported, 292 rains, rapid snow meltvillages flooded and ing and flooding from nearly 400 houses damglacial lakes in the past aged, she added.

The Pakistani governing in various locations ment and security forces are providing immelarly in the north-west, diate help and the UN UN Associate Spokes- is monitoring the situperson Vannina Maes- ation and stands ready tracci told a daily brief- to assist should it be requested, said Maes-

(UNICEF) announced on 12, these classes are es-Friday that out of the 1.8 pecially important as million children whose students are scheduled education has been into pass national exams in mid-August to obtain terrupted by the Yemtheir Basic or Secondary eni conflict, over 200,000

catch-up classes to en-"Giving Yemen's chilsure that children don't dren an education is crucial for their own fucompletely miss out on tures as well as those of

School Certificates.

their families and communities," said UNICEF representative in Yemen Julien Harneis, urging the parties to the conflict to respect the safety of schools so as to "give children a chance to learn."

UNICEF indicated that over 3,600 schools have had to close because of ...(More on P4)...(25)

BRUSSELS - Syria's two

main political opposi-

tion groups, long at odds,

announced Friday that

they have agreed on a

"roadmap" to end their

country's long-running

civil war, starting with

establishment of a tran-

sitional governing body.

Officials of the Syrian Na-

tional Coalition and the

National Coordination

Body spoke to reporters

after meeting in Brussels.

Safwan Akkash, secretary

of the National Coordina-

tion Body, said it was the

groups' shared respon-

sibility to protect "Syrian blood." The unified

front could strengthen

the opposition's hand in

any future talks with the

government of President

Bashar Assad.

Iran to Double Support to "Axis of Resistance" after Nuclear **Deal: Syrian FM**

DAMASCUS - Syria's Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said Friday that Iran will double its support to the "axe of resistance," which includes Syria, following the signing of the Iranian nuclear deal with world powers.

"Iran will not change its stance toward the Syrian crisis and it stressed a continuous support to the axis of resistance after the

groups, which have been

trying for years to reach a

common understanding,

have been accused of be-

ing out of touch with the

realities in Syria and have

virtually no following

among the rebel groups

The announcement in

Brussels came a day af-

ter U.N. special envoy to

Syria Staffan de Mistura

met in Damascus with

Svrian politicians, trying

to come up with a way

to end the conflict that

has killed around 220,000

people since March 2011.

De Mistura's office says

he is working to final-

ize his proposals to U.N.

chief Ban Ki-moon on a

way forward to support

Syrian parties in their

search for a political solu-

fighting on the ground.

conclusion of the nuclear accord," al-Moallem said at the "International Media Conference Against Terrorism" held in Damascus. Moallem hailed the recently-signed deal as "historic," adding that Iran has entered "the international arena from its widest doors."

"If our allies are strong, we are strong as well," he said, in an apparent empathizsupport to Syria, which was recently highlighted by several Iranian officials, who stressed that there will be no limits to Tehran support to Damascus. Ali Jannati, the Iranian

ing on the ongoing Iranian

Culture Minister, who also attended the Damascus conference, said "Iran stood and will stand by Syria" because of the rightful cause in Syria. (Xinhua)

U.S., Turkey to Strengthen **Syria Opposition Groups Security Cooperation** Agree on 'Roadmap' to **End Civil War**



WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama and Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdogan discussed efforts to deepen cooperation in the fight against the Islamic State, or the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), during a phone call made Wednesday, the White House said.

The presidents spoke about "deepening our ongoing cooperation in the fight against ISIL and common efforts to bring security and stability to Iraq and a political settlement to the conflict in Syria," the White House said in a press release. "The leaders also discussed

eration to stem the flow of foreign fighters and secure Turkey's border with Syria."

"It's notable that Turkey is already doing a number of things to support the counter-ISIL coalition," said Josh Earnest at a daily White House press briefing held here Thursday. "Turkey has taken important steps to curb the flow of foreign fighters.'

According to news reports in Turkey and the U.S., an agreement on using the Incirlik Air Base in Turkey to strike ISIL was finalized Wednesday, citing government sources. (Xinhua)

Emirati Plane Brings Aid to Yemen's Aden

ADEN - Two airplanes, one Emirati and one Saudi, landed in Aden Friday, bringing humanitarian aid to the southern Yemeni city only hours after its airport came under rocket

They bring to four the number of aircraft to arrive in the port city since the symbolic reopening of the airport Wednesday, after nearly four months of fierce fighting.

plies from the UAE Red ficial said. The

tion.(AP)

which arrived at midday, brought medication for cancer patients. A vital supply artery for war-torn south Yemen, the airport came under fire from the Shiite Huthi rebels Thursday as a Saudi plane was unloading humanitarian aid onto the tarmac. Overnight, rocket attacks on Aden killed people and

Crescent, an airport of-

...(More on P4)...(27)

France, Germany, Ukraine, Russia Urge **Respect for Ukraine Truce**



PARIS - The leaders of France, Germany, Russia and Ukraine held talks over the conflict in east Ukraine, with all sides calling for the implementation of a ceasefire deal, the French presidency said. The phone conversation between Francois Hollande, Angela Merkel, Vladimir Putin and Petro Poroshenko came a week after similar fourway talks. On Thursday, the leaders "agreed on the importance of respecting pledges undertaken in Minsk in February", the presidency said in a statement, referring to the truce deal struck in the Belarussian capital. These included "the withdrawal of heavy weapons from the line of contact, the complete implementation of the ceasefire and access to the OSCE's special observer mission".

The leaders also "welcomed the intention of the parties to discuss on July 28 local elections and the decentralisation regime". (AFP)

The joint task force will visit the Osan Air Base of the U.S. Forces Korea (USFK), some 50 km south of Seoul, at an earliest possible date to thoroughly probe the accidental delivery of the

deadly anthrax samples, the ministry said in a press

The task force, composed

investigation team will investigate into whether the treatment of anthrax samcording to rules, whether

Tajikistan's Foreign **Debt Reportedly Down to** \$2.1 billion

DUSHANBE - Over the first six months of this year, the country's foreign debt has declined 34.6 million U.S. dollars (USD) to 2.1 billion USD, First Deputy Minister of Finance, Jamshed Karimzoda, announced at a news conference in Dushanbe on July 24.

According to him, Tajikistan's foreign debt is now equal to 19 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP).

'The national budget has allocated 70 million USD for the external debt service, including more than 55 million U.S. dollars for principal debt

payments and about 16 million USD for debt interest payments," Karimzoda said.

Six loan and grant agreements to the total amount of 873 million somoni have reportedly been signed over the first half of this year for implementation of five new investment projects.

"Tajikistan is currently conducting negations with the Anti-crisis Fund, the Word Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions on attraction of funds to support the national budget," Karimzoda said. (Asia Plus)

Berlusconi says Just s Joke, no Plans to be Russian Minister lines around the world this ROME - Did Russian President Vladimir Putin of-But Berlusconi spokes-

fer former Italian premier Silvio Berlusconi a job as economy minister? Berlusconi says it was just a joke and Putin says any support was "metaphori-

A boast by Berlusconi that his old friend Putin had offered to make him economy minister made head-

woman Deborah Bergamini says he was just joking, and Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov says Putin wasn't really offering the Italian a job.

In comments carried by Interfax news agency Thursday, Peskov said Putin was ...(More on P4)...(26)

opposition

fire from rebels.

Emirati plane, which landed at dawn, brought medical supSaudi aircraft,

wounded 57, according

S. Korea to Probe U.S. Base for **Anthrax Delivery Blunder**

SEOUL - South Korea's Defense Ministry said on Friday that it will conduct an on-spot investigation into a U.S. air base in Osan for a wrong delivery in April by a U.S. military laboratory of live anthrax samples to the Osan Air

release.

of military and diplomatic officials from both sides, was launched on July 11 to look into the case. The ministry said the joint

ples was conducted acanthrax spores remained at the air base and the ways ... (More on P4)... (28)