

U.S. Democratic Presidential Nominee Hillary Clinton

PHILADELPHIA, United States - Hillary Clinton on Tuesday became the first woman to run for president on behalf of a major U.S. political party. At the age of 68, the former U.S. secretary of state enjoys nearly universal name recognition after her almost four-decade-old public life. Her debut as a political figure started in 1979 when her husband, Bill Clinton, became the governor of Arkansas. When Bill Clinton campaigned for the White House in 1992, he once quipped that he was offering voters two presidents for the price of one.



As first lady of the United States, Hillary raised her profile in 1993 by aggressively campaigning for universal health care for Americans. But she failed. Between the mid-1990s and the end of his second term in office, Bill Clinton was involved in various scandals, including an investigation into a failed real estate project in which the Clintons had invested and his affair with a White House intern that later led to impeachment proceedings. The scandals, particularly the Monica Lewinsky saga, put the Clintons and ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Turkey Says 8,651 Military Personnel Involved in Coup Attempt

ANKARA - The total number of Fethullahist Terror Organization (FETO) terrorists in our military is 8,651, or 1.5 percent of the entire Armed Forces, Turkish General Staff stated on Wednesday. There are 8,651 military personnel who belong to the Fethullahist Terror Organization (FETO) and were involved in the failed coup attempt, Turkish General Staff stated. He added that 35 jets, 239 armored vehicles, 37 helicopters, seven tanks and



three ships were used in the attempted coup, or 7 percent of jets, 8 percent of helicopters, and 2.7 percent of tanks of the entire army. Meanwhile,

an Istanbul prosecutor issued detention warrants for 47 former executives of Zaman which is a media group thought to be linked to the U.S.-based

Islamic scholar Fethullah Guen. The warrant issue was part of the FETO investigation, also blaming Zaman for the failed July 15 coup attempt. Istanbul's counter-terrorism police forces have searched the residences of former Zaman executives and journalists during the early hours of July 27 following a direct order by the deputy public prosecutor, Fuzuli Aydogdu, to detain 47 suspects in the investigation. (Xinhua)

UN Sets New Target for Resumption of Syria Peace Talks

GENEVA - The United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan De Mistura said Tuesday that he aimed to restart Syrian peace talks seeking to broker a political end to the five-year conflict by the end of next month. "Our aim is to proceed with the third round of intra-Syrian talks towards the end of August," he said after a trilateral meeting with U.S. and Russian representatives here. "Meanwhile, we hope that concrete progress on the Kerry-Lavrov under-

standing will visibly take place," he added. The diplomat was referring to a recent Moscow-based meeting seeking to advance dialogue on Syria between Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and his U.S. counterpart John Kerry. "In order to make these talks particularly truthful and hopeful we are certainly eager to see the outcome of the steps agreed upon in Moscow," he said. De Mistura noted that ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

UN Refugee Agency Appeals for Additional \$115.4 Mln for Voluntary Return of Somali Refugees

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) on Tuesday appealed to donors for an additional 115.4 million U.S. dollars to fund the voluntary return and reintegration of Somali refugees from Dadaab refugee camp in Kenya. Following the Kenyan government's announcement of its decision to close Dadaab Camp, UNHCR presented a plan of action at a recent meeting of the Tripartite Commission, where Kenya, Somalia and UNHCR all sit, Farhan Haq, the deputy

UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here. The plan outlined a process intended to reduce the population of Dadaab by 150,000 by the end of 2016 -- the camp currently hosts 343,043 people, he said. "It is anticipated that the majority of the remaining refugee population would return to Somalia during the course of 2017," Haq said. The UN agency anticipates that the majority of the remaining refugee population -- approximately 170,000 people -- ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Security Council to Hold Second Straw Poll of Next UN Chief on Aug. 5

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council will hold its second straw poll on candidates vying for becoming the next UN Secretary-General on Aug. 5, Japan's Ambassador Koro Bessho told reporters here on Tuesday. The Security Council held its first straw poll on Thursday behind closed doors and made no official announcement of the results. So far, 12 candidates have been competing for the post of the next UN chief: half of them are women; eight are from the



eastern European nations. Strong competitors among them are former U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Antonio Gu-

terres, former Slovenian President Danilo Turk, UN cultural agency UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova.

Under the UN Charter, the UN secretary-general shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Modi Calls Up British PM, Pitches for Stronger Bilateral Relations

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi Wednesday called up British Prime Minister Theresa May and asserted New Delhi's commitment to bolster bilateral relations. During the telephonic conversation, Modi also appreciated the Britain's consistent support to India in various global fora, the Indian External Affairs Ministry said. On her part, the British prime minister told Modi that she looked forward to working closely with him for developing stronger bilateral ties and enhancing cooperation in tackling global challenges. May became the British prime minister on July 13, after David Cameron resigned in the wake of Britain voting in favor of exiting the European Union. (Xinhua)

Airstrikes Kill 31 IS Militants in Western Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq - A total of 31 Islamic State (IS) militants were killed on Wednesday in airstrikes targeting the extremist militants in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said. The international warplanes bombarded a convoy of five IS vehicles at a village in north of the town of Baghdadi, some 190 km northwest of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, destroying the vehicles and killing 16 IS militants, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. Another airstrike struck an IS position in Jazirat al-Khaldiyah area in northwest of the newly-freed city of Fallujah, some 50 km west of Baghdad, killing eight IS militants, the source said. Also in the province, seven IS militants were killed when U.S.-led coalition aircraft ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Syrian Army Urges Rebels in Aleppo to Abandon Insurgency

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army on Wednesday urged armed rebels in the northern city of Aleppo to lay down their weapons, saying it's a "real chance." "Emanating from our keenness to curb the bloodletting, we grant a real opportunity to all those who hold weapons in Aleppo's eastern part to settle their situation by laying down their weapons and stay in Aleppo, or to surrender their weapons and leave the city," the General Command of the Syrian army said in a statement carried by state-run SANA news agency.



"We urge everyone to have a prudence and put the national interest of restoring peace and security to Aleppo above anything else," it added. The move comes as the Syrian army has completely laid a siege

on the rebel-held parts in east of Aleppo city, after severing the last remaining supply route to those areas last week. In the statement, the army said it had succeeded with the help ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

IS Claims Suicide Bombings Killing 31 in Syria's Qamishli

DAMASCUS - Islamic State (IS) group claimed responsibility for the suicide bombings killing 31 people in Syria's northeastern city of Qamishli on Wednesday. A short statement, released by its official Amaq news agency, said that one of its suicide bombers detonated an explosive-laden truck into a security compound of the Kurdish security forces of Assayish, in the western neighborhood of Qamishli. Meanwhile, the national Syrian

TV said 31 people were killed and over 170 others wounded by two blasts in Qamishli. It added that the death toll is still preliminary, noting that the rescue teams are still removing bodies from under the rubble. Qamishli, which is largely controlled by the Kurds, has been the target of repeated bombings by the IS terror group, due to the enmity and clashes between the Kurdish fighters of the U.S.-backed People's Protection Units and the IS. (Xinhua)

Some Russian Athletes Unjustly Banned from Rio Games: Putin

MOSCOW - The competitions of the 2016 Rio Olympic Games will be less spectacular due to the absence of some Russian athletes unjustly banned from participating in them, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday. "It is clear that the absence of Russian athletes, leaders in many disciplines, will significantly reduce the intensity of the struggle, and hence the spectac-

ularity of the upcoming competition," Putin said at a meeting with Russian athletes. Putin met in the Kremlin with the national team, which will leave on Thursday for Rio de Janeiro to take part in the August 5-21 games and also those athletes, who were not allowed to participate. He criticized the decision of the International Association of ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Neighbor News

Xi Calls for Further Armed Forces Reform

BEIJING - General Secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee Xi Jinping on Tuesday called for the building of strong armed forces through military reform. Xi presided over a group study seminar of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, which focused on national defense and military reform. He said that the reform is a comprehensive and revolutionary change, and obstacles and policy issues that may hold back reform measures must be addressed so as to build a strong armed forces commensurate with China's international status. Cai Hongshuo, deputy

head of the advisory team of the leading group for deepened national defense and military reform under the Central Military Commission (CMC), delivered a lecture on the issue and offered some suggestions. Members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee then discussed relevant issues during the study. Xi said under the CPC's leadership, the armed forces have been constantly reformed and improved, adding that further military reform is needed to cope with changing international situation and develop the socialism with Chinese characteristics. (Xinhua)

Ghana, Iran Agree to Enhance Health Cooperation: FM

ACCRA - Ghana and Iran have pledged to enhance cooperation in the health sector, Minister of Foreign Affairs Hanna Serwaa Tetteh said here on Tuesday. Speaking to the press after a closed-door meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Accra, Tetteh said Iran would bring more of its doctors to complement the health-care system. She said 10 students would also be given scholarships to study in the sciences and other areas in Iran. Zarif led an economic and political delegation to Ghana to discuss mutual ties with senior government officials. Tetteh said the presence

of the business delegation offered Ghanaians the opportunity to discuss some business ideas with their Iranian counterparts. "This visit is very important because it gives the Ghanaian businesses the opportunity to interact with those from Iran. We look forward to building a stronger partnership with Iran," Tetteh said. Zarif described the visit as a multifaceted one which would explore all areas. The two ministers stressed the importance of international collaboration to combat the phenomena of terrorism and extremism which were major threats to international peace and security. (Xinhua)

Kerry Says Would Like to Visit Pakistan in Near Future: Pak MoFA

ISLAMABAD - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Tuesday he would like to visit Pakistan in the near future to review bilateral cooperation and discuss regional issues, the Pakistani Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MoFA) said in Islamabad. During a meeting held on the sidelines of the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) in Lao capital Vientiane, Kerry exchanged views with Pakistan Foreign Affairs Adviser Sartaj Aziz on the regional situation with special reference to Afghanistan and agreed on the importance of promoting the Afghan-led reconciliation process. Kerry's statement came amid tensions between

the two sides on several issues including the halt of subsidized F-16 fighter planes and a U.S. drone strike that killed the Afghan Taliban chief, Akhtar Mansour in May. Pakistan says that the U.S. attack in Balochistan province has harmed efforts for the peace process in Afghanistan. Kerry appreciated Pakistan's determined efforts to eliminate terrorist groups in Pakistan's tribal belt with considerable success, a Foreign Ministry statement said. The U.S. secretary of state assured Sartaj Aziz that the United States is ready to improve and expand its multi-dimensional partnership with Pakistan. (Xinhua)

Opportunities of Tajikistan-France Cooperation in Combating Terrorism Discussed in Paris

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's Ambassador to France Homidjon Nazarov on Wednesday met in Paris with Mr. Thierry Mariani, Deputy Head of the France-Tajikistan Parliamentary Friendship Group and member of the French delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe. According to the Tajik MFA information department, the two sides expressed satisfaction with the current level of bilateral cooperation and underlined

the significance of cooperation in the framework of the parliamentary friendship group. Pointing out the current complicated situation in Afghanistan, particularly deterioration of situation in border areas, Mr. Mariani reportedly expressed readiness to take efforts to promote further expansion of cooperation between France and Tajikistan, in particular in the field of fight against extremism and terrorism. Tajik ambassador extended condolences to ...*(More on P4)...(30)*