

Obama, Merkel Stress Anti-Terror Cooperation Following Attacks

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday reaffirmed the necessity of close U.S.-German counterterrorism and broader security cooperation. In a telephone talk, Obama expressed condolences over the attacks in southern Germany, the White House said, adding that the U.S. government offered its full support to Germany as the investigations into the recent violent attacks proceeded. Germany was shocked by four violent attacks within last week in the southern part of



the country. On Sunday, a 27-year-old Syrian blew himself up and wounded 15 people outside a music festival in Ansbach, a city in the state of Bavaria. It happened just hours after a 21-year-old Syrian refugee killed a pregnant Polish woman and injured two people with a machete in Reutlingen, a city in Baden-Wuerttemberg. Over the phone, Obama and Merkel also discussed the situation in Ukraine and reiterated the urgent importance of durably ending the violence in eastern Ukraine by rapidly implementing the Minsk agreements. (Xinhua)

Hillary Clinton Accepts Democratic Presidential Nomination

PHILADELPHIA, the United States - Former U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton on Thursday formally accepted the Democratic Party's nomination for president and pledged more economic opportunities for Americans and "steady leadership."

"My primary mission as president will be to create more opportunities and more good jobs with rising wages right here in the United States from my first day in office to my



last," Clinton said on the final day of the four-day Democratic National Convention.

"In my first 100 days, we will work with both par-

ties to pass the biggest investment in new, good-paying jobs since World War II. Jobs in manufacturing, clean energy, technology and innovation,

small business, and infrastructure," she added.

In an apparent move to woo disgruntled liberal supporters of Bernie Sanders, her former rival in the nomination race, Clinton also vowed to overturn the U.S. Supreme Court's 2010 Citizens United ruling that opened the door to unlimited donation in U.S. politics and to strengthen regulations of Wall Street banks and big corporations.

"I believe that our economy... (More on P4)...(23)

Aleppo Escape Corridors Cautiously Welcomed: UN

GENEVA - The UN Special Envoy for Syria welcomed Friday a Russian and Syrian initiative to assist the population of Syria's northern city of Aleppo, while warning that if such operations take place, they must be carried out in full respect of international humanitarian law.

"As the UN and as humanitarians, we do welcome any initiative aimed at assisting civilian populations in conflict zones," said the special envoy Staffan de Mistura.

"We are in principle, and

in practice in favour of humanitarian corridors under the right circumstances that allow the protection of civilians," he added.

Three humanitarian corridors for civilians have been sketched out by Moscow and Damascus to allow those wishing to leave Syria's second largest city to do so. A fourth corridor is planned to be opened in the north of Aleppo for the safe passage of armed militants who want to lay down their arms according to... (More on P4)...(24)

U.S. Deploys THAAD in S. Korea

BEIJING - The United States will deploy its THAAD anti-missile system in South Korea, claiming that the shield can deter threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. But don't be fooled. The superpower isn't acting in the interest of South Korea but has intent on serving its own agenda. About two weeks ago, South Korea's defense ministry announced an agreement with the United States to place a battery of the THAAD (Terminal High Altitude Area Defense) system in its southern region, de-

spite repeated opposition from local residents and neighboring countries.

THAAD is developed by the U.S. defense company Lockheed Martin. It is a U.S. Army anti-ballistic missile system designed to shoot down short and medium range ballistic missiles in their terminal phase. It is composed of six mobile launchers, 48 interceptors and a radar and fire control system valued at about 1.3 billion U.S. dollars.

Under the South Korean-U.S. deal, the THAAD battery will be operated by the... (More on P4)...(25)

New Cold War Looms Large in North East Asia as Seoul Accepts THAAD

BEIJING - A new Cold War is looming large in Northeast Asia as Washington insists on installing an anti-missile shield in South Korea, a provocative move that could further split the region, trigger a fresh arms race and crush hopes of denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula.

Immediately after the Second World War, the U.S.-led Western bloc sought to dictate post-war world order and contain the Soviet Union to ensure global supremacy as well as the



proliferation of capitalism and its set of values worldwide. And that was how the Cold War set in. Over the following four

decades of confrontation, most of the world's nations were forced to take sides and paid a heavy price for struggles be-

tween two super powers, a price no lighter than all-out hot wars. Nearly three decades following the fall of... (More on P4)...(26)

Anti-U.S. Sentiment Rising in Turkey over Gulen's Extradition: Turkish FM

ANKARA - There has been a noticeable rise in anti-American sentiment in Turkey over Ankara's request to extradite a cleric accused of being the mastermind of a recent coup attempt, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Thursday.

In an interview with broadcaster CNN Turk, Cavusoglu said Turkish-U.S. ties would be adversely affected if Washington does not extradite Fethullah Gulen, who now resides in Pennsylvania. The United States insists on "concrete evidence" linking Gulen to July 15 coup attempt as a precondition to his extradition. Turkish authorities said at least 290 people died in the coup, including more than 100 "coup plotters." On Wednesday, Turkish Justice... (More on P4)...(27)

China Continues to be Very Important Partner for Latin America: UN Official

SANTIAGO - "China continues to be a very important partner of Latin America, despite a slowdown in its growth," Alicia Barcena, executive secretary of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), told Xinhua in an interview earlier this week.

At the presentation of the ECLAC's new report, The Economic Survey of Latin America and the Caribbean 2016, Barcena said the UN panel believed that China-Latin America cooperation in different economic sectors, such as agriculture, could further strengthen their overall relations.

Financial cooperation is another crucial aspect "as China has become an important financial partner... (More on P4)...(30)

Turkey Brushes off US Playing Down Coup Purge as Damage to IS Fight

ANKARA - Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu on Friday described as "unfortunate" comments by U.S. officials suggesting that purges in the Turkish military after a failed coup were damaging cooperation in the fight against Islamic State (IS).

Speaking to media in an interview, Cavusoglu said that the Turkish army became more trustworthy, clean and effective in the fight against the IS after it has



been cleansed. The top diplomat added the ties restored between Turkey and Russia was not an alternative to NATO and the European Union.

"Turkey is a NATO ally and a candidate for EU

membership," he added.

On Thursday, Cavusoglu told local media CNN Turk that ties between Turkey and the U.S. would be impacted if the U.S. did not hand over... (More on P4)...(28)

Turkey Shuts Air Base, Military Barracks Used in Coup Attempt

ANKARA - Turkey will close air base in Ankara and military barracks in both Ankara and Istanbul, which were used by coup plotting soldiers in the July 15 coup attempt, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Friday in Ankara.

Serving as the main headquarters in the coup, the Akinci Airbase "will be closed and turned into a place where the memories of our martyrs will be kept alive," Yildirim said while addressing a crowd near the base in the Kazan district of Ankara. The PM also vowed to shut all military barracks from where tanks rolled out and helicopters took off in Istanbul and Ankara during the failed coup attempt.

He also stated that July 15 will be the annual "Democracy Martyrs Day" of Turkey. "That day you went outside to protect your... (More on P4)...(29)

35 Killed in U.S.-Led Airstrikes in Northern Syria

DAMASCUS - At least 35 civilians were killed by fresh U.S.-led airstrikes near a town controlled by the Islamic State (IS) group in northern Syria, a pan-Arab TV reported Friday.

The airstrikes targeted the town of Ghandur in the countryside of the town of Manbej, which has seen several strikes by the U.S.-led anti-terror coalition.

The strikes come in the context of the U.S. support to the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which has besieged Man-

bej in a bid to flush the IS out. Al-Mayadeen TV said the airstrike is the third to hit civilians in Manbej since the SDF and the U.S. started operations against the IS there in May.

On July 19, as many as 56 civilians were killed in Manbej by French strikes, part of the U.S.-led coalition, according to local media. Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights also reported the airstrike, saying seven children were among those killed. (Xinhua)

17,000 People Displaced in Clashes in Philippines

MANILA - At least 17,000 people have been displaced by fighting between government forces and Abu Sayyaf in impoverished southern Philippine province of Basilan since early this month, the International Committee of the Red Cross said Friday.

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said in a statement that shelling and air strikes over the last three weeks have forced 3,400 families

from three towns of Tipo-tipo, Al-Barka and Ungkaya Pukan to leave their houses and farms.

The residents are now living with their relatives in nearby towns that are not yet affected by the military offensives, the statement said.

"The security situation in Basilan is precarious. We are concerned for the civilians as we expect clashes to continue in the... (More on P4)...(31)

Neighbor News

Xi Calls for Solid Steps to Implement FOCAC Summit Outcomes

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping on Friday sent a congratulatory letter to the Coordinators' Meeting on the Implementation of the Follow-up Actions of the Johannesburg Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC).

December's Johannesburg Summit marked the beginning of a new era of win-win cooperation and common development between China and Africa, and was a milestone in the history of China-Africa relations, Xi said in the letter.

Over the past six months, China and Africa have worked together to overcome the negative impact

of the sluggish world economy, reached consensus on how to implement the outcomes of the summit and achieved tangible results, showing the dynamic development of China-Africa cooperation, Xi said.

The coordinators' meeting in Beijing is an important step by China and Africa to implement the consensus of Chinese and African leaders and the outcomes of the FOCAC Summit, Xi said.

The meeting demonstrates to the world, once again, that no matter how the international landscape may change, China and Africa are committed to... (More on P4)...(32)

UN Envoy to Visit Iran Ahead of Syria Peace Talks

TEHRAN - United Nations Special Envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura will arrive in Tehran to hold talks with senior Iranian officials ahead of the resumption of the peace talks on the five-year-long conflict in the Arab country.

De Mistura is scheduled to arrive in Tehran on Sunday to exchange views with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari. The sides will discuss the latest developments in the war-stricken country and the upcoming peace talks in Geneva, Switzerland. Speaking at a news conference in Berlin on July 22, the UN official said there was determination to find a proper date for

the resumption of the Syria peace talks.

"We are determined to actually look for a proper date in August for relaunching the intra-Syrian talks in Geneva," De Mistura said. He expressed optimism that the results of talks between the US and Russia can be helpful in resolving the crisis in Syria, saying the two sides have agreed to take some "concrete steps" to restore peace to Syria. The US and Russia are still divided over the future of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad. Washington insists that Assad must step down before any peace process can yield results, but Russia opposes the idea, arguing that the Syrian president is defending his country against terrorists. (Presstv)

Iran, Tajikistan Opt for Boosting Aviation Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iranian and Tajik officials in a meeting in Tehran underlined the need for broadening the two countries' cooperation in aviation and air transportation.

During the meeting in the Iranian capital on Friday, Head of the Civil Aviation Organization of Iran Ali Abedzadeh and Tajik Ambassador to Tehran Nematullo Emomzoda explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating bilateral ties in the area of air transportation.

Abedzadeh expressed the hope that Tehran and Dushanbe would increase the number of their daily flights.

The Tajik envoy, for his part, also called for the expansion of aviation cooperation between the two

countries.

In June 2015, Iranian Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian and Tajik President Emomali Rahmon in a meeting in Dushanbe discussed bilateral ties.

During the meeting in Tajikistan's capital, Chitchian and President Rahmon explored avenues for further cooperation in economic, industrial, energy and transportation fields.

The Iranian energy minister and the Tajik president underlined both countries' resolve to implement bilateral and multilateral agreements, specially in infrastructural projects.

President Rahmon voiced his satisfaction in the trend of Dushanbe-Tehran... (More on P4)...(33)

Uzbekistan, Saudi Arabia Mull Bilateral Relations

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Adel bin Ahmed Al-Jubeir held negotiations, during which the sides discussed topical issues of bilateral relations within the visit of Uzbek delegation to Jeddah, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry said on Thursday.

The sides also exchanged views on the upcoming meeting's agenda of the OIC (the Organization of Islamic Cooperation) Foreign Ministers Council, which is to take place in October of 2016 in Tashkent. Adel bin

Ahmed Al-Jubeir praised Uzbekistan's vision and approaches with regard to the country's priorities within its chairmanship in the OIC Foreign Ministers Council that are united in the slogan "Education and enlightenment - path towards peace and creativity."

Uzbek and Saudi Arabian foreign ministers noted the two sides' interest in progressive development of bilateral cooperation in various spheres and successful holding of the upcoming 43rd session of the OIC Foreign Ministers Council in Tashkent. (Trend)