

Diplomacy, not Military, to End Syria Crisis: Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says only diplomacy and not military approaches can settle the five-year-old crisis in Syria.

"The Syrian crisis can be only resolved politically, and a solution to the Syrian crisis will not be achieved through military means," Zarif said in a joint press conference with Norway's Foreign Minister Boerge Brende in Oslo on Monday.

Noting that Iran believes the conflict in Syria will be only resolved through a diplomatic mechanism,



Zarif added that Iran's four-point initiative can

help find a solution to the Syrian crisis.

Iran has drawn up a four-point peace plan on the

Syrian crisis, which calls for a national unity gov-

ernment, ceasefire, fighting terrorism and constitutional reforms in the violence-torn Arab nation. Syria has been gripped by militancy since March 2011. UN special envoy for Syria Staffan de Mistura estimates that over 400,000 people have been killed in the conflict. Importance of Iran-Norway ties in post-JCPOA era The Iranian minister also stressed the importance of strengthening relations with Norway in different sectors after the implementation of the last ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Iraqi Forces Repel IS Attack, as Battles Continued in Fallujah

FALLUJAH - Iraqi security forces on Monday repelled attacks by Islamic State (IS) militants on military positions in north of the city of Ramadi, the capital of Iraq's western province of Anbar, while battles to push into the IS stronghold in Fallujah continued in southern the city, a provincial security source said.

In the early morning, dozens of IS militants with four suicide car bombs attacked the positions of Iraqi army and allied

Sunni paramilitary units, known as Hashd Shaabi, in Jeraishi area in north of Ramadi, some 110 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity.

The troops fought fierce clashes with the attackers who were forced to withdraw from the battleground after the troops destroyed the four suicide car bombs with anti-tank guided missiles before reaching the first ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Orlando Nightclub Gunman did Pledge Allegiance to IS: Police Chief

ORLANDO - The lone gunman who killed 49 and wounded 53 at a popular gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, did pledge allegiance to the Islamic State (IS) and tried to negotiate with police during the attack, said Orlando Police Chief John Mina at a morning news briefing on Monday.

"He was cool and calm when he was making those phone calls to us," Mina said. "We had a team of crisis negotiators that did talk to the suspect just trying to get as much informa-

tion as possible ... He really wasn't asking for a whole lot. We were doing most of the asking."

At the briefing, an FBI agent clarified that the total number of nightclub victims was 49 instead of the previously reported 50, a number that counted the shooter himself as a victim. "The shooter is not a victim," FBI Special Agent in Charge Paul Wyszopal told reporters.

The shooter, identified as Omar Mateen, a 29-year-old who was of Afghan descent but born in the



United States, parked his car before 2 a.m. on Sunday outside the Pulse nightclub, walked into the crowded main room with an assault rifle and a handgun, and opened fire minutes later on the crowds. He then took several hostages and ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Man with Gun, Explosives Arrested before Los Angeles Gay Parade

LOS ANGELES - Santa Monica police arrested a man armed with a gun and seized a car with explosives here on Sunday morning hours before a gay pride parade in West Hollywood. FBI agents confirmed the arrest hours after the gay club mass shooting in Orlando, Florida. The man told police that he was in town for the pride parade, the Los Angeles Times reported.

The 46th annual Los Angeles Pride Parade, one of the biggest public festivals celebrating gay, lesbian and other alternate lifestyles,

was to continue along Santa Monica Boulevard in West Hollywood Sunday. Normally, about 400,000 people will party at the celebration for freedom in diversified sexual orientation. The parade has been held every year since 1970 in Hollywood and was moved to West Hollywood in 1979.

FBI spokeswoman Laura Eimiller told media that they were assisting the Santa Monica Police Department with the arrest of an individual, but would not ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Greek Civil Society Shows Solidarity to help Refugees

ATHENS - Despite being severely hit in the last six years by economic recession, Greek civil society has continued to show solidarity and willingness to help refugees.

After the Balkan route to central Europe officially shut down in February, more than 58,000 refugees and migrants have been stranded in Greece, according to official estimates by the Greek government.

The majority of the refugees - 75 percent - have found shelters in state-organized facilities in northern Greece and in



the Attica region around the capital Athens, a recent survey by the Institute of Local Administration showed.

The survey was presented

last week during a conference of the Central Union of Municipalities of Greece (KEDE) where local government officials called for a more efficient national

plan to address the crisis and distribute refugees equally across Greece. From the 54 hospitality centers and camps across the ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

9 Injured in PKK Car Bombing Attack in Eastern Turkey

ANKARA - At least nine people were injured in a car bomb attack on a residential complex for members of Turkey's judiciary in eastern Tunceli province Monday, Turkish security sources told Anadolu Agency.

According to the sources, a Kurdish Workers' Party (PKK) suicide bomber detonated a bomb-laden car inside the housing complex, where members of the judiciary, including judges live.

Nine people, including one police officer, were wounded in the attack, three of whom are reported to be in a critical condition.

Over 470 members of Turkish security forces and thousands of PKK members have been killed in confrontations inside Turkey and in northern Iraq since last July.

More than 40,000 people have lost their lives in clashes with the PKK since 1984, when the group first started anti-government attacks. The PKK is listed as a terrorist organization by the United States, the European Union and Turkey. (Xinhua)

Over 47,000 S. Sudanese Flee to Sudan since January: UN

JUBA - More than 47,000 South Sudanese have fled into Sudan's East Darfur in Western region since January, with about 500 households arriving per day until early April, the UN agencies said on Monday.

In a joint humanitarian report, the UN Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs and UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) said new arrivals have since continued at a slower rate, and as of January to June 11, about 47,100 refugees had arrived in East Darfur.

The UN agencies said the influx of South Sudanese refugees is driven by deteriorating food insecurity and ongoing violence in



South Sudan. "Though rates of arrival have slowed in comparison to the January to April period, underlying reasons for displacement remain unchanged," the report says.

A recent food security analysis by World Food Programme (WFP) expects the number of South Sudan's food insecure

people to reach 5.3 million between May and September, which would result in the nation's most severe lean season since independence in 2011.

As such, provision of assistance in affected areas of South Sudan will be integral to reducing the number of people who are driven from their homes in ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Florida Gunman was 'Mentally Ill' with Violent Temper: Ex-Wife

FORT PIERCE - The gunman who killed 50 people at an Orlando, Florida, nightclub in the deadliest mass shooting in US history was emotionally and mentally disturbed with a violent temper, yet aspired to be a police officer, his ex-wife said on Sunday.

Sitora Yusufiy, the former spouse of Omar Mateen, 29, identified as the shooter slain by police at the end of Sunday's massacre, also told reporters in a news conference aired on CNN that she was "rescued" by family members

from her ex-husband after four months of a stormy marriage that ended in divorce.

An undated photo from a social media account of Omar Mateen, who Orlando Police have identified as the suspect in the mass shooting at a gay nightclub in Orlando, Florida, US, June 12, 2016. - Reuters

An undated photo from a social media account of Omar Mateen, who Orlando Police have identified as the suspect in the mass shooting ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Philippine Military Still Verifying Reports of Beheading of Canadian Hostage

MANILA - The Philippine military is verifying reports that Abu Sayyaf Group beheaded Monday afternoon another Canadian hostage after multi-million peso ransom was not paid, a senior government official said.

"AFP (Armed Forces of the Philippines) is verifying," Presidential Communications Operations Office Secretary Herminio Coloma Jr. told reporters when asked to confirm reports of the beheading of Robert Hall.

The bandits reportedly pushed with the killing of Hall in southern Philippine province of Sulu after the 3:00 p.m. local

time deadline to pay ransom expired.

Prior to the deadline, Coloma said the government has not wavered in its determination to deal with the kidnaper-ransom problem.

"Our focused military and law enforcement operations continue without let up with the objective of rescuing the hostages and holding their captors accountable for all their crimes," he said in a statement.

He did not mention about the possibility of giving in to the ransom demand of the Abu Sayyaf. It has been the government's policy not to pay ransom to the ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Americans Condemn Orlando Mass Shooting while Politicians Argue over Precautions

ORLANDO - Volunteers queued for hours in heavy rain to donate blood at mobile stations in Orlando, Florida, where the deadliest U.S. mass shooting to date took place on Sunday, while politicians argued from the very wording of the incident to ways to prevent the recurrence of such tragedy.

At least 50 people were killed and 53 others wounded, including a police officer in the attack early Sunday. The tragedy happened amid a series of events nationwide in celebration of LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) Pride Month. In several other cities ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Neighbor News

Gurbanguly Talks on Necessity of Accelerating Privatization



ASHGABAT - The privatization work should be accelerated in Turkmenistan, said the country's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. He made the remarks during a meeting of the Cabinet of Ministers, said the message from Turkmenistan's government.

Placement of shares, organization of stock market and open competitive bidding should be the main tools of privatization, according to Turkmenistan's president. "This will create a good opportunity to develop the mutually

beneficial cooperation among investors," said Berdimuhamedov.

He noted that effective measures should be taken in order to reduce the number of state enterprises and organizations and to expand the private sector of the economy.

"Currently, the facilities owned by entrepreneurs operate better and more effectively than state enterprises," said Turkmenistan's president. Turkmenistan pursues the policy of gradual transition to the market economy. (Trend)

Zarif in Norwegian Capital to Open Oslo Forum, Hold Meetings

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has arrived in Norway's capital, where he will open the Oslo Forum by a speech along with European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini as well as his Norwegian counterpart, Boerge Brende. Accompanied by two high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, Zarif landed in Oslo early on Monday.

Foreign Ministry Spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari and Deputy Foreign Minister for European and American affairs Majid Takht-Ravanchi are also taking part in the visit to the Scandinavian country.

"I will hold talks with my counterpart in Oslo on Monday in regard to the two countries' cooperation in the fields of gas and environment," the Iranian foreign minister told reporters upon his arrival. On

Tuesday, Zarif will address the forum, where he will give a speech about "settlement of regional conflicts."

Early on Wednesday, he will talk to US Secretary of State John Kerry to "follow up on US commitment to JCPOA [Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action]," a seven-nation nuclear deal involving the United States.

Later that day, he will travel to Berlin to hold a meeting with his German counterpart, Frank-Walter Steinmeier. Zarif recently finished a tour of Latvia, Poland, Sweden and Finland. According to its official website, the Oslo Forum "convenes senior conflict mediators, high level decision makers and key peace process actors in a series of informal and discreet retreats to share their experiences, identify challenges and reflect on mediation practice." (Presstv)

China's First High Orbit Remote Sensing Satellite put into Use

BEIJING - China's first high orbit remote sensing satellite, Gaofen-4, went into use after six months of in-orbit testing, the State Administration of Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (SASTIND) announced Monday.

Gaofen-4 is China's first geosynchronous orbit high-definition optical imaging satellite and the world's most sophisticated.

Unlike from Gaofen-1 and Gaofen-2 in low orbits around the earth, Gaofen-4 is orbiting at 36,000 kilometers. High orbit satellites have the advantage of being able to snap "grand scenarios." Low orbit satellites, in contrast, can see more detail at faster speed.

Low orbit satellites cannot always follow natural disasters, but Gaofen-4 can continuously observe a disaster because it moves synchronously with the earth. It improves the response to disasters

like earthquakes, landslides and typhoons with its high-precision sensors.

Gaofen-4, which was launched in December 2015, has a designed lifespan of eight years, compared to other remote sensing satellites which remain in service for less than three to five years.

During the in-orbit test, Gaofen-4 has been used to collect imageries of flood-hit areas in south China's Sichuan Province and in Russia. China started the Gaofen project with the launch of Gaofen-1 in April 2013. It aims to launch seven high-definition observation satellites before 2020, designed for disaster prevention, surveillance of geological disasters and forest disasters and weather forecast.

Gaofen-3 is set to be launched in August 2016, according to the SASTIND. (Xinhua)