

Turkish PM Vows Solidarity with EU to Address Migrant Crisis

BRUSSELS - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu on Monday vowed solidarity with his European counterparts to address the exacerbated migrant crisis. "We have many challenges in front of us, the only way to response to these challenges is solidarity," said Davutoglu on his arrival for the European Union (EU)-Turkey summit. "I am back in Brussels for the second EU-Turkey summit in three months, this summit itself shows how indispensable Turkey is for the EU and the EU for Turkey," he told reporters. Ankara has been host-



ing millions of migrants border to enter the EU and sought asylums. The EU and Turkey earlier hampered out an action plan to stem migration flows and tackle networks of

traffickers and smugglers and now "the full and speedy implementation of the EU-Turkey action plan remains a priority" to the summit, said a statement from the European Council. "At the end of the day our continent is our continent all together. we have to see the whole picture, not just irregular migration, but the whole future of our continent is on the table where we need solidarity between us," Davutoglu said. "I am sure these challenges will be solved through our cooperation and Turkey is ready to work with the EU," he added. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Chinese Leaders Stress Reform, CPC Leadership

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping on Monday called for deeper reform to revitalize China's northeastern industrial base. Xi urged lawmakers from Heilongjiang to pursue innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development when participating in deliberations on the government work report at the fourth session of the 12th National People's Congress (NPC). He said that local government and Party officials must abide by the law as they implement reform policies and that they should encourage the public to do likewise. Capable, honest officials should be rewarded with promotions, the president

said. The meeting also discussed the shift of economic engines, food prices, poverty relief and structural reform in industrial bases. In a panel discussion with NPC deputies from Fujian Province, Premier Li Keqiang urged authorities of the eastern coastal province to strengthen the green and maritime economy and build a strategic pivot for coastal development. Li asked the province to speed up a shift in growth by boosting smart manufacturing and the modern service sector and to take more initiative in advancing reform and opening up as well as the peaceful development of cross-strait relations. (Xinhua)

UAE, Germany Call for Solution in Mideast Crisis

ABU DHABI - Abu Dhabi's Crown Prince, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan, met Monday with German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier to discuss developments in the conflict-ridden countries of Libya, Yemen and Syria. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed Al-Nahyan is also the Deputy Supreme Commander of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Armed Forces. He said on his social media channel that he discussed with

the German diplomat the bilateral relations in addition to regional and international issues of common interest. Both sides also discussed means to renew talks between the divided parties in Yemen. The UAE has been a member of the Saudi Arabia-led multi-national Arab force fighting the Iran-backed Shiite Houthi rebels since March 2015 in order to reinstate the "legitimate" government of Yemeni President Abd Rabbu ... (More on P4)... (20)

Britain Not to Join EU Common Asylum Process: Cameron

BRUSSELS - Britain would not join the European Union (EU) common asylum process, British Prime Minister David Cameron said on Monday before an EU-Turkey summit which aimed to stem the massive migrant influx. "We have an absolutely rock solid opt-out from these things, so there is no prospect of Britain joining a common asylum process in Europe," Cameron told reporters on his arrival for the summit. "We will

have our own approach, our own way of doing things, keeping our own borders. It underlines the best of both worlds, the special status we have," he told reporters. "It is important that we help the continent of Europe to secure its external border ... that is why we are sending British ship just to do just that," he added. Meanwhile, in a statement published ahead of the summit, Cameron called "the migrant crisis the greatest



challenge facing Europe today" and elaborated Britain's position on this issue. "Britain has not faced anywhere near the scale of migrants coming to Europe as other coun-

tries because we are out of Schengen and retain control of our borders," the statement said. "But where we can help, we should. And we've ... (More on P4)... (21)

Putin, Sisi Discuss Resumption of Russian Flights to Egypt

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Egyptian counterpart, Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, discussed the resumption of Russian flights to Egypt over the phone, the Kremlin said Monday. "The two sides stressed the importance of creating all necessary conditions for the resumption of Russian flights to Egypt and tourist exchanges," the Kremlin said in a statement. On Oct. 31, 2015, a Russia-bound Airbus A321 crashed shortly after taking off from Egypt's Red Sea

resort of Sharm el-Sheikh, killing all 224 people on-board, mostly Russians. The Russian Federal Security Service announced later that the plane was brought down by a bomb, and Putin then ordered the suspension of all of the country's flights to Egypt following the tragedy. In late February, Sisi said terrorists had been behind the crash with the aim to ruin Egyptian ties with other states. The crash also led some other states, including Britain, to suspend ... (More on P4)... (22)

Russia Says its Warplanes only Bomb Terror Targets

MOSCOW - Russian fighters deployed at the Hmeimim air base in Syria only strike targets of the Islamic State (IS) and Nusra Front militants, said the Russian Defense Ministry on Monday. "Warplanes of the Russian air force are striking only the IS and Nusra Front terrorist groups in provinces of Rappah, Deir ez-Zor and Homs in Syria," ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov said. They are not targeting the Syrian opposition groups that support the cease-fire agreement, he



added. The cessation of hostilities, backed by Russia and the United States and agreed by a number of armed groups and the Syrian government, came into effect in late February. The deal excludes the IS and the Nusra Front, both of which are listed by the United Nations as terrorist groups. (Xinhua)

Russia Voices Concern over U.S.-S. Korea Drill, Calling for Restraint

MOSCOW - The Russian Foreign Ministry on Monday expressed concern over a joint military drill staged by the United States and South Korea, criticizing the two countries for using it to pressure the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). All sides should "exercise restraint, and not allow the situation to run amok and spin into uncontrollable conflict spreading on the (Korean) peninsula," the ministry said in a statement. Meanwhile, the ministry warned the DPRK not to "completely place itself against the international community," which would provide the "international legal basis for the use of military force against Pyongyang." Earlier in the day, South Korea and the United States kicked off their largest-ever annual exercises amid growing tensions on the Korean Peninsula, in an apparent warning to Pyongyang over its nuclear ... (More on P4)... (23)

Germany's Anti-Migration Party Finishes Third in Municipal Vote: Preliminary Results

BERLIN - Germany's anti-migration party, the Alternative for Germany (AfD), bagged third place in municipal elections in the central German state of Hesse, preliminary results showed on Monday. The AfD won 13.2 percent of the vote in Hesse on Sunday, closely beating the Green Party (11.6 percent) for the third position, according to the provisional results. In some municipalities, the AfD claimed more than 20 percent of voter support. German Chancellor Angela Merkel's Christian Democratic Union

(CDU) narrowly claimed the most votes (28.2 percent), just ahead of the Social Democrats (SPD) with 28 percent. The significant electoral gains of the AfD was described as "very regrettable" by Thorsten Schaefer-Guembel, SPD leader in Hesse. Politicians from the CDU and the SPD have also expressed their concerns with a view to the three upcoming state elections in Germany. Hesse's election serves as a warm-up for three more important votes for state parliament positions in Baden-Wuerttemberg,

Rhineland-Palatinate and Saxony-Anhalt on Sunday. The AfD has gained support over the past months and looked on course to break into all three legislatures. A latest poll for German broadcaster ARD showed support for the party in Saxony-Anhalt at 19 percent, a result that would make it the third strongest party there after Merkel's CDU and the Left Party. In Baden Wuerttemberg, the AfD polled at 13 percent, with nine percent support projected in Rhineland-Palatinate. (Xinhua)

No Sign of Diversion of Iran Nuclear Material: IAEA

TEHRAN - The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has once again reaffirmed the peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program, saying the body has no indications of a diversion of nuclear material toward non-civilian purposes. "The Agency has found no indication of the diversion of declared nuclear material from peaceful nuclear activities in Iran," IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano said in his introductory statement to the Board of Governors on Monday. "Iran's Additional Protocol has been provisionally implemented since January 16th, 2016," he added. He said a nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), ... (More on P4)... (24)

UN Urges Speedy Implementation of Mali Peace Deal

BAMAKO - A United Nations Security Council delegation on Sunday appealed for speedy implementation of Mali's peace agreement, which was signed last year, and acceleration of the country's reconciliation process. The delegation concluded its two-day visit to Bamako, Mali on Sunday, led by Angola's representative in the UN Security Council, Gaspar Martins. "We came here to directly engage with stakeholders so that we can be able to help parties make a decisive step towards peace. There is need to advance the implementation of the peace agreement," said Martins. France's representative in the UN Security Council, Francois Delattre, added the visit ... (More on P4)... (27)

IAEA Urges DPRK to Fully Implement Relevant UN Security Council Resolutions

VIENNA - The IAEA nuclear agency on Monday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to comply with relevant UN Security Council resolutions. "I strongly urge the DPRK to implement fully all relevant Agency and Security Council resolutions," the agency chief Yukiya Amano told a board meeting of the agency in Vienna.

Currently, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has no nuclear inspector in the DPRK which makes it difficult for the IAEA to have a map of the country's nuclear plan. The DPRK announced its fourth nuclear test at the beginning of the year, leading to a new resolution of the UN Security Council. The ... (More on P4)... (25)

OIC Summit Concludes with 'Jakarta Declaration' Supporting Palestinian Independence

JAKARTA - The fifth Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) Extraordinary Summit concluded on Monday as all country members approved the "Jakarta Declaration" resulted from the two-day high-level talks. The Jakarta Declaration reaffirms OIC member countries' supports on the recogni-

tion of Palestinian people's self-determination, including their rights to independence with Al-Quds Al-Sharif, or Jerusalem, as its capital city. The document also pledges commitment to fully support for the National Unity Government under the leadership of Palestinian ... (More on P4)... (26)

Tajikistan, Iran to Expand Scientific Cooperation

DUSHANBE - Tajik Minister of Education and Science Nouriddin Saidov received Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan Hojatollah Faghani and Iranian Cultural Attache Ebrahim Khodayar. According to the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), the sides discussed state and prospects of further expansion of bilateral cooperation between Tajikistan and Iran in the field of education and science and made decisions regarding implementation of memorandums of Understanding (MoUs). Decisions were reportedly made on scholarships between Iran and Tajikistan and following up the implementation of MoUs with Iranian

universities such as Tarbiat Modares University, Shahid Beheshti University, K.N.Toosi University of Technology, Azad University and others. The two sides agreed on reviving Persian Language courses in National University, holding technical workshops, active participation of Tajikistan University Chancellors in the first Persian Language University Chancellors Gathering in Iran, cooperation regarding giving certificate to training courses in Iranian cultural attaché office, cooperation in holding knowledge-increasing courses for teachers in Tajikistan and cooperation in publishing Persian alphabet books, IRNA said. (Asia-Plus)

Pakistan's PM to Visit Saudi Arabia, Witness Military Exercise

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will pay an official visit to Saudi Arabia on March 9-10 for talks on security cooperation and witness military exercises, officials said Monday. The Foreign Ministry said leaders from other countries have also been invited to witness the ongoing military exercise "North Thunder" and its closing ceremony. Troops from 21 countries, including Pakistan,

are participating in the exercise in the northern region of Saudi Arabia. "The main goal of the exercise is to improve training in responding to the threat posed by terrorist groups," a Foreign Ministry statement said. Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al-Saud had invited the prime minister to visit the kingdom. The Foreign Ministry said Pakistan will always stand shoulder to shoulder ... (More on P4)... (28)