

Brussels Attacks Mark Another Low by Terrorists: EU Head

BRUSSELS - The latest attacks at Brussels airport and a metro station mark another low by terrorists, European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday, following the explosions which caused at least 13 deaths in the morning. "I am appalled by the bombings this morning at Zaventem airport and the European district in Brussels which have cost several innocent lives and injured many others," Tusk said in a statement. "I extend my sincerest sym-



pathies to the relatives and friends of the victims, he

said. "These attacks mark another low by the terror-

ists in the service of hatred and violence." "The Euro-

pean institutions are hosted in Brussels thanks to

the generosity of Belgium's government and its people. The European Union returns this solidarity now and will fulfill its role to help Brussels, Belgium and Europe as a whole counter the terror threat which we are all facing," he added. Two explosions were heard shortly before 8 a.m. local time (0700 GMT). The airport's departure hall was damaged heavily, one witness told Xinhua. The explosion at Brussels airport was a suicide attack, ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Nieghbor News

Community Planting Day Held in Turkmenistan

BISHKEK - The traditional nationwide community planting day was held in all regions of Turkmenistan in March with participation of President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The head of state kick-started the tree planting campaign by planting a tree near the historical monument in Akhal province, which is commonly known as Paryzdepe (Holy Hill). In total, 332 thousand people of Turkmenistan took part in tree planting and maintaining the green areas in previous

years. In the course of the current community planting day, there have been planted more than 356,000 trees, including Elder pine, arborvitae, cypress, decorative cedar, mulberry, elm, pistachio, almond, maple and willow. As part of the National Planting Program, millions of trees were planted around cities and towns of the country in recent years, making a beneficial impact on people's living conditions and overall environmental situation, reports Turkmenistan. (AKIpress)

Xi Urges Implementation of New Development Concepts

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping has called for supporting measures to implement China's new innovative, coordinated, green, open and shared development model, as outlined in the Five-Year Plan. It is imperative that coordination is improved to ensure the efficient implementation of the new model, as it plays an integral part in China's journey to achieving "a moderately prosperous society by 2020," Xi told a meeting of the Central Leading Group for Deepening Overall Reform on Tuesday. Pilot reforms should be systematic and well organized to ensure new mechanisms are tested

thoroughly, according to a statement released after the meeting. The statement also noted that an overall evaluation of existing reforms was needed. The meeting approved a series of policy documents including those on lawyers, ecological compensation, poverty eradication, child health care and investment. Most Party and government agencies, civil associations and state-owned firms need to have legal advisers, public sector lawyers or corporate lawyers, who should be given a greater role in promoting the rule of law, the statement said. (Xinhua)

Iran Hosts Celebrations Marking Nowruz at UN in New York

TEHRAN - Iran has hosted an event at the United Nations to celebrate Nowruz or the Persian New Year, with senior diplomats from the world body and a dozen Asian countries in attendance. The annual festivities were held at the UN headquarters in New York on Monday, with Gholam-Ali Khoshroo, the Iranian Ambassador and permanent representative to the world body, as the host. Among the senior guests at the celebrations were UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon as UN-ESCO Director General Irina Bokova as well as

diplomats from Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, India, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Kyrgyzstan. This is while millions of Iranians are celebrating Nowruz, which marks the advent of spring. In harmony with the rebirth of nature, the Nowruz festivities always begin on the first day of spring, which has fallen on March 20 this year. Along with Iranians, millions of others in countries such as Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, Tajikistan and Turkey also celebrate Nowruz. (PressTV)

Peshawar High Court Stays Execution Awarded by Military Court

PESHAWAR - The Peshawar High Court (PHC) on Tuesday suspended the execution of a death-row inmate, who was sentenced to death by a military court for involvement in terrorism. A two member bench of the PHC, comprising Justice Mahzar Alam Main Khel and Justice Younis Thaheem, heard the application of convicted militant Bakhat Amir, staying his execution. The bench asked the interior and defense ministries to submit details of the case in the next hearing. The application filed by the convict's brother prayed that Amir had surrendered himself to security

forces in 2009 in Swat, after which there was no information about him. A few weeks ago the family was informed that Amir had been awarded the death sentence by a military court, his brother maintained in court. The convict's brother said "we do not know when and where the trial was conducted or who conducted tried the case". The lawyer of Bakhat Amir contended that his client was not given "the basic right of a free and fair trial." This is the second instance the PHC has intervened to suspend a death sentence awarded by a military court. (Agencies)

Greece Beefs up Security Measures in Wake of Brussels Attacks

ATHENS - The Greek authorities decided to beef up security measures across the country in the wake of the deadly attacks in Brussels on Tuesday, Greek government spokeswoman Olga Gero-vassilis said. As a precautionary measure, security measures will be strengthened in the airports, the Athens subway and all mass transport services, as well as around foreign embassies, in particular of European countries, Greek

national news agency AMNA reported, citing public order ministry sources. The Greek police has been put on alert and was in contact with Belgian and other European authorities, sources told Xinhua. In addition, the counter-terrorism police department has stepped up surveillance of certain individuals who were considered as suspects with links to extremist groups, according to local "Vima" ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

U.N. Lifts North Korea Sanctions on Four Ships at China's Request

UNITED NATIONS/SEOUL - The U.N. Security Council agreed on Monday to a Chinese request to remove sanctions on four ships the United Nations had blacklisted for ties to Pyongyang's arms trade. The agreement came after China secured assurances the vessels would not use North Korean crews, a U.S. official said. China asked the United States on March 16 for help removing the ships from the U.N. blacklist, according to a diplomatic cable sent the



same day from the U.S. permanent mission at the United Nations to a group of other U.S. embassies. The cable, reviewed by Reuters, showed wran-

gling between top diplomats from the United States and China over the tough new North Korea sanctions, weeks after Washington had present-

ed a united front with Beijing, Pyongyang's main ally and trade partner. The U.S. mission at the United Nations declined ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Brussels Attacks "Result of EU Wrong Policies": Syria

DAMASCUS - Syria's Foreign Minister condemned the bombings that hit Brussels Tuesday, saying the attacks are a result of the wrong policies of the European Union, state news agency SANA reported. While "vehemently" condemning the bombings that rocked Brussels and killed at least 26 people and wounded 136 others, the ministry said the terrorist attacks in the European city was a result of the "wrong policies and capitalizing on the terror to achieve certain agendas." The at-

tacks in Brussels and Paris and elsewhere are reminders that terrorism has no boundaries, the ministry said, referring to its previous accusations against the West of supporting the insurgency in Syria. The Syrian government repeatedly warned the backers of the rebels from the repercussions of the terrorist groups on Europe. Meanwhile, the ministry urged the international community to exert all efforts to counter the threat of terror and stop the flow of support to the jihadi groups in Syria. (Xinhua)

Japan to Permanently Deploy Missile Interceptors

TOKYO - Japan's Defense Ministry on Tuesday announced that its ground-based missile interception system would be permanently deployed at a location in Tokyo following the Democratic People's Republic of Korea's increasingly frequent launches of ballistic missiles. Defense Minister Gen Nakatani said the Patriot Advanced Capability-3, or PAC-3, surface-to-air missile system would be permanently deployed by this time next year at the ministry's facilities in

Ichigaya in Tokyo to safeguard the capital and the government's personnel and main defensive assets. The move from Tokyo follows Pyongyang, in defiance of United Nations Security Council resolutions and following increasing condemnation from the international community, launches of five projectiles into waters off its east coast on Monday. Nakatani said Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) have been ordered to shoot down any inbound ballistic missiles from the DPRK that is either aimed



at, or would see stages of the missile fall toward Japanese territory. He also said that following the latest redeployment on Friday of the PAC-3 interceptors in Ichigaya, that batteries were, in fact, still deployed in Asaka in To-

kyo and Narashino, which is close to Tokyo. Japan's Foreign Ministry on Tuesday said it was on high alert following the DPRK's latest series of missile launches and urged Pyongyang to exercise restraint. (Xinhua)

Syrian Refugees Come to Aid of Far-Right German Politician

BERLIN - German police say two Syrian refugees pulled a far-right politician from the wreck of his car after he crashed into a tree. The dpa news agency reported Tuesday that the refugees provided first aid to Stefan Jagsch, a member of the anti-immigrant National Democratic Party, or NPD. pa quoted police in the town of Friedberg, north of Frankfurt, saying that the Syrians had left by the time officers arrived at the scene last Wednesday. The Frankfurter Rundschau daily quoted regional NPD official Jean Christoph Fiedler as praising the refugees for their "very good, human actions." The paper reported Jagsch took part in a far-right demonstration in January at which refugees were described as "invaders" and "lawless primates." Nationalist and far-right parties have gained support in Germany amid the migrant influx. (AP)

BRUSSELS - A nuclear power station in Tihange, southeast Belgium, has been evacuated as a precautionary measure after the terror threat level across the country was increased to the maximum level 4 on Tuesday morning, Belgian broadcaster RTBF reported that only essential personnel needed to keep the reactors running were allowed to work. Other staff were sent home mid-morning and police and military personnel are guarding the entrance. Doel nuclear power plant, near the north Belgian port city of

Belgian Nuclear Plants Evacuated as Precautionary Measure



Antwerp, has followed the same procedure, RTBF added. Belgian electricity supplier Electrabel said the move would have no impact on electricity production levels. The threat level in Belgium has been raised to the highest level 4 from

the previous level 3 following deadly explosions at Brussels airport and on a city subway train. The death toll has risen to 34 in the deadly blasts in Brussels on Tuesday morning, according to the latest figures. (Xinhua)

Turkish Military Hits IS Targets in Northern Iraq

ANKARA - Turkish military hit Islamic State (IS) targets on Tuesday as a group of IS militants tried to attack a military training camp in the Bashiqa region of Mosul province of Iraq, local NTV broadcaster reported. Turkish military units in the camp destroyed the IS positions repelling the attack, which is the fourth assault since December against the military camp that is relatively close to IS-held Mosul, NTV quoted military sources. The attempt came after an IS suicide bomber killed five people and wounded 36 others in Istanbul on Saturday. The IS militants launched their first attack on the military camp on Dec. 16 just after Turkey deployed around additional 150 troops to the Bashiqa area in December earlier with aim of training an Iraqi Sunni militia to fight IS. In a second assault on Dec. ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Saudi Arrests Shiite Imam for 'Glorifying' Hezbollah

RIYADH - Saudi security forces have arrested a Shiite preacher accused of glorifying Lebanon's Iran-backed militant group Hezbollah, a newspaper reported on Tuesday. Hussein al-Radi was detained after Gulf Arab states declared Hezbollah a "terrorist" group earlier this month and brought in tough new measures against anyone supporting it. The Al-Watan daily reported that security forces arrested Radi, from the Al-Ahsa oasis region in Eastern Province. "This is after he glorified the terrorist group Hezbollah and insulted the kingdom in a video clip that has been shared" online, the ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

Bulgaria Activates National Counter-Terrorism Plan: Deputy PM

SOFIA - Bulgaria has activated its national counter-terrorism plan immediately after receiving information about the blasts in Brussels, the country's Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Rumiana Bachvarova said here on Tuesday. There is currently no information about any direct threat to Bulgaria but the country has taken necessary preventive measures, Bachvarova said at a press conference. The country raised the level of security in all national transport facilities including airports, railway

stations and ports, as well as metro stations in Sofia, she said. Meanwhile, the authorities conducted security checks on key sites in the capital and enhanced border control, Bachvarova said. Later on Tuesday, the authorities will conduct a large scale anti-terrorism drill in Sofia. "It was planned two months ago to check the readiness to respond to an emergency situation, and unfortunately coincided with today," she said. Speaking about the explosions in ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

UK Tightens Security as PM Urges Joint Stand on Terror

LONDON - Britain boosted security at its international transport hubs following the deadly attacks in Brussels on Tuesday as Prime Minister David Cameron urged Europe to stand together against the terror threat. Security was stepped up at ports, borders and airports, though police chiefs and politicians insisted there was no specific intelligence pointing towards an attack in

Britain. One Briton was confirmed injured in the Belgian capital and was receiving treatment, Cameron's spokeswoman told reporters. "We're aware of one British national injured at the airport. We're now working to provide consular support," she said. Cameron chaired a meeting of COBRA, Britain's emergency committee which brings together ...*(More on P4)...(31)*