

# Kerry Urges Parties to Syrian Conflict to End Violence, Restore Ceasefire

GENEVA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday urged all parties to the Syrian conflict to end violence and restore the cessation of hostilities during his second day trip here for talks focusing on the Syrian situation.

"We're getting closer to a place of understanding. But we have some work to do, and that's why we're here," he told reporters after meeting with Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir Monday morning in a Geneva hotel.

While answering questions, Kerry said that there were a lot of conversations



taking place Sunday on how to separate al-Nusra from the opposition fighters and stop the fighting in

Aleppo, adding that progresses had been made in this regard. Speaking after meeting

with the U.N. envoy to Syria, Staffan de Mistura, Kerry said that both the U.S. and Russia have

agreed that there will be additional personnel stationed in Geneva around the clock to make sure

there is more accountability and a better ability to enforce the cessation of hostilities on a day-to-day basis. He added that both the Syrian government and the opposition have "contributed to this chaos".

"In the last weeks the cessation of hostilities has been put to test, and frayed in certain areas, and fallen completely in a few areas," he explained in a press stakeout outside a hotel in Geneva.

"We are working over the next hours to try and restore the cessation of ... (More on P4)...(19)

## S.Korea Expects DPRK's Nuke Test Around Party Convention

SEOUL - South Korea's military on Monday expected the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to conduct another nuclear test in and around the country's ruling party convention scheduled for Friday.

Defense Ministry spokesman Moon Sang-Kyun told a press briefing that the DPRK will likely carry out additional nuclear test or launch additional missiles such as Musudan "by surprise" before or after the party congress



in consideration of the DPRK's actions and will. Pyongyang announced a plan last week to hold

the seventh ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) convention on May 6, the first since 1980. Moon said

the DPRK had launched ballistic missiles since top DPRK leader Kim Jong Un gave orders on March 15 to test a nuclear warhead and ballistic rockets capable of carrying the warhead "in a short time." Ahead of the seventh WPK congress, the DPRK had test-fired several ballistic missiles to show its nuclear strike capability, the spokesman said.

In the past two weeks, the DPRK conducted the test-launch of three Musudan ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Germany Wants to Extend Border Controls for Another 6 Months

BERLIN - Germany and some other EU countries are planning to ask the EU Commission for an extension of border controls within the Schengen passport-free travel zone for another six months because they fear a new wave of migrants.

Interior Minister Thomas de Maizere's spokesman says a letter is being sent Monday asking for an extension of the controls on the German-Austrian border, which were implemented last year when thousands of migrants



crossed into Germany daily. De Maizere has expressed concern before that an increasing number of migrants will try to

reach Europe this summer by crossing the Mediterranean Sea from lawless Libya to Italy, then travel north to Austria and Ger-

many. Germany registered nearly 1.1 million new arrivals last year and is keen to bring the numbers down in 2016. (AP)

## Turkish Military Strikes IS Targets in Syria, 34 Militants Killed

ANKARA - Turkish artillery and drones struck Islamic State (IS) targets in northern Syria on Sunday, killing 34 of its militants, private Dogan news agency reported on Monday. The airstrikes came in response to three rockets fired by the IS on the southeastern border province of Kilis on early

Sunday, according to the report. Five weapon pits belonging to the IS were destroyed in the raids, it added. The Turkish army shared the intelligence gathered from Syria's north with the U.S.-led coalition and the operation was launched, it said.

Turkey has been hit by a series of rocket attacks by

the IS from Syria since Jan. 18. In Kilis alone, 18 people have been killed and many others wounded from such attacks in recent weeks. Turkey has recently been on high alert as the country has been rocked by a series of suicide and car bomb attacks that claimed many lives and wounded hundreds more. (Xinhua)

## Polish Leader Hails Plan for NATO Build-up on Eastern Flank

WARSAW - The leader of Poland's ruling conservative party has hailed a decision by NATO to create a military presence on the alliance's eastern flank, saying it means Poland will stop being a "second-

category" member of the organization. Jaroslaw Kaczynski made his comment in a speech Monday that largely focused on other political matters.

It comes as the U.S. plans to build up forces in Cen-

tral Europe in response to Russian intervention in Ukraine. Poland and several of its neighbors are nervous about the Russian actions, which include the annexation of Crimea and ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Yemeni Government Suspends Participation in Peace Talks

KUWAIT CITY - The United Nations envoy for Yemen says the country's government delegation has suspended its participation in peace talks aimed at ending fighting in the impoverished Arab country. U.N. envoy Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed said in a statement that the Yemeni government stopped participating in plenary sessions held in

Kuwait on Sunday because of developments in the governorate of Amran, which reportedly came under rebel attack. The statement says he has received assurances from the warring parties that they are committed to resolving difference without participating in joint sessions, and that the U.N. hopes to resume ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Far-Right Crimes Rise Sharply in Austria Amid Migrant Crisis

VIENNA - Austria saw a sharp increase last year in the number of incidents involving xenophobia, Islamophobia and anti-semitism, a report showed on Monday, following the arrival of large numbers of mostly Muslim migrants and refugees. Authorities pressed charges in about 1,690 cases related

to right-wing extremism in 2015, the highest number to date in a single year and up from 1,200 in 2014, the report by Austria's domestic intelligence service BVT showed. The number of far-right "extremist acts" reported in 2015 - which range from hurling fireworks at ... (More on P4)...(26)

## Libya's Political Split Undermines Fight Against IS

TRIPOLI - The political division in Libya still poses an obstacle to the fight against the Islamic State (IS) group despite signing a UN-sponsored peace agreement and the appointment of a unity government.

The UN-backed Libyan unity government called in a statement Thursday on its military forces to suspend any military operation against the IS-dominated city of Sirte, some 450 km east of the capital Tripoli.

"The Presidency Council of the Government of

National Accord, as the highest commanding authority, calls on all Libyan military forces to wait for the orders of the Supreme leader to appoint a joint military operation leadership in Sirte," the statement said.

The statement comes as the eastern forces of Major General Khalifa Haftar prepares to launch an offensive against the IS in Sirte.

On the other hand, head of the House of Representatives (parliament) Agila Saleh on Friday ... (More on P4)...(21)

## British Gov't Must "Clean Own Backyard" in Anti-Corruption Fight

LONDON - If the British government is serious about leading the global struggle against corruption it must demonstrate leadership by cleaning its own backyard, a leading justice center said Monday.

A survey conducted by respected pollsters YouGov for researchers at the University of Liverpool found the public want a ban on practices that have become a normal part of British government and politics. The survey comes as British Prime Minister David Cameron prepares to host

a special corruption summit. The survey shows that the British public are not in tune with the messages likely to be heard coming from inside the summit, says Prof. David Whyte.

A cross section of the British public was asked how they regarded a range of collusive relationships between the public and private sectors.

Almost three quarters, 73 percent, said that the practice of government ministers accepting corporate boardroom appointments ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Denmark Extends Border Controls for Sixth Time

COPENHAGEN - The Danish government on Monday extended its temporary border controls on the German-Danish border for the sixth time since introducing them at the start of January.

The new extension means that the controls at the Danish border with Germany will remain in place for another 30 days until June 2. "It must be noted that there is still considerable pressure on Europe's borders, and that migrants and refugees will find alternative routes when the borders are closed," said Danish Integration Minister Inger Stoejberg. She added that there is also reportedly a large



number of unregistered refugees and migrants in such countries as Germany, which will be able to seek to move towards Denmark. Meanwhile, the minister warned of the risk that many refugees and migrants without proper identification papers could strand in Den-

mark. "Such accumulation could threaten public order and internal security in Denmark, and we must take it seriously. It is therefore necessary that we extend border controls," Stoejberg said. At the same time, Denmark has joined Sweden, ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Far-Right Crimes Rise Sharply in Austria Amid Migrant Crisis

## First US Cruise Ship Sails to Cuba After Decades

WASHINGTON - A U.S. cruise ship started its historic journey to Cuba on Sunday for the first time in 38 years. Carnival Corp.'s Adonia left a Miami port on Sunday afternoon and sailed to Havana, with 704 passengers aboard, including several Cuban-born passengers.

During its seven-day journey, the ship will also visit ports of Cienfuegos

in south-central Cuba and Santiago de Cuba in the southwest. Carnival's cruises to Cuba will be operated by its tenth and newest line Fathom. According to the company, the Adonia will cruise every other week from Miami to Cuba, with promises to engage passengers "in an ongoing cultural exchange program that ... (More on P4)...(27)

## Neighbor News

### Uzbekistan, EU Discuss Cooperation Issues

BISHKEK - Minister of Foreign Affairs of Uzbekistan Abdulaziz Kamilov met with European Union Special Representative for Central Asia Peter Burian, the Uzbek foreign ministry said.

During the conversation the parties discussed topical issues of cooperation between Uzbekistan and EU, international and regional problems. The sides exchanged views on the implementation of joint projects in the bilateral format and within the framework of the new EU Strategy for Central Asia partner-

ship. At the meeting the parties also considered the practical aspects of the upcoming joint events, including the participation of high-level delegation of EU in international conference "Oil and Gas of Uzbekistan - OGU-2016" in Tashkent, the schedule of interparliamentary and other contacts, meetings of the institutions of cooperation created by Uzbekistan and EU.

The head of the EU Delegation to Uzbekistan, Ambassador Yuri Sterk attended the talks. (AKIpress)

### Saudi King Meets Turkmenistan President in Riyadh

RIYADH - Turkmenistan President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, who is currently on an official visit to Saudi Arabia, met Saudi King Salman bin Abdelaziz on Monday in Riyadh. According to the official Saudi News Agency, the two leaders signed nine agreements and memorandums of understanding during their meeting. King Salman and Berdimuhamedov discussed recent regional and international developments, with the Saudi monarch reiterating longstanding calls on Iran not to interfere in

the domestic affairs of regional states. Commenting on peace talks in Kuwait, Salman voiced hope that ongoing negotiations between the Yemeni government and the Shia Houthi group would lead to a final resolution of the crisis in Yemen in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 2216. King Salman also voiced hope for enhanced bilateral cooperation between Saudi Arabia and Turkmenistan in terms of trade, investment, energy, agriculture, tourism and the fight against terrorism. (Agencies)

### Iran, S. Korea to Boost Trade to \$18 Bln: Rouhani

TEHRAN -Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said here Monday that Iran and South Korea are planning for a threefold increase in their bilateral trade turnover. The plan for the boost of ties is from current level of six billion U.S. dollars to 18 billion annually, Rouhani said in a ceremony that saw the signing of cooperation agreements between his administration and that of South Korea. In a meeting with his visiting South Korean counterpart Park Geun-hye in Tehran on Monday, Rouhani expressed willingness for the investments of the South Korean firms in Iran and the transfer of technology to the Islamic republic. He pointed to the existing banking issues between Tehran and Seoul, saying that both

countries should develop banking relations as a means to expand ties and enhance trade relations to the strategic level.

Seoul and Tehran also agreed to cooperate in tourism sector, and South Korean firms will develop Iran's tourism infrastructure and invest in constructing hotels, he added. As for the regional and international issues, Rouhani said that Iran is against the production and use of weapons of mass destruction in the world, particularly in the Korean Peninsula and the Middle East.

Iran wants security, peace and stability for Korean Peninsula, he added. On Monday, Iran and South Korean signed 19 agreements of cooperation to boost ties in diverse areas. (Xinhua)

### China-Australia FTA "Delivering" for Australia: Trade Minister

CANBERRA - The free trade agreement signed by Australia and China late last year is "delivering" for Australian businesses, the nation's Minister for Trade and Investment said on Monday. Steven Ciobo said the Chinese appetite for premium Australian products such as wine,

beef, seafood and vegetables had contributed to a number of impressive gains in export levels, and praised the government's decision to sign the historic China-Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA). He said the reduction and abolition of tariffs ... (More on P4)...(28)

### US Delegation Assures Pakistan of Continued Assistance

ISLAMABAD - A two-member staff delegation of the United States (US) House Foreign Affairs Committee assured Pakistani authorities of the US' continued provision of military equipment and assistance with approval of the US Congress on Monday. In a meeting with Special

Assistant to the Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi, delegation members Kristen Marquardt and Sajit Gandhi reiterated US efforts to strengthen Pakistan's counter-terrorism capacity and said the continued cooperation was a testimony to the ... (More on P4)...(29)