

Putin, Trump Contacts Possible before Inauguration: Kremlin

MOSCOW - Contacts between Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President-elect Donald Trump before the latter's inauguration are possible, but one should not put high hopes on a quick change in bilateral relations, the Kremlin was quoted as saying. "I do not know whether there are going to be any contacts between the president and Trump before the inauguration. I do not know, but certainly this cannot be ruled out," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said in an interview with Moskovsky Komsomolets daily, which published the re-



port on Sunday. He said that Moscow is seeking good relations with Washington and wants to resolve all disputed issues through dialogue, in hopes of mending the bilateral ties which are in "deplorable condition." Peskov said that both Putin and Trump have a common approach to the necessity of defending national interests, and stress the necessity of normalizing relations between the two countries primarily on the basis of protection of national interests. But he warned that one should "avoid unrealistic expectations." (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Xi's Visit to Peru will Have Regional Impact: Peruvian Expert

LIMA - The upcoming visit by President Xi Jinping to Peru in November will have a major impact across the region as it certifies Latin America as a priority for China, said a Peruvian expert. "It reflects the relevance China gives its ties to Latin America. Our region is a priority for China and Latin America sees this as a prime opportunity," said Miguel Rodriguez, an international analyst, in an interview with Xinhua. "The Chinese act with blistering speed, knowing that time counts in international relations. China knows how to win over the world." "China knows a region is a gold mine, and always has been. Latin America is growing as never be-

fore, which is why China is seeking to accentuate commercial ties. Linked to this is the Chinese goal to diversify its exports. Therefore, China sees it as equally important to invest in developed countries like the U.S. as in growing economies in Latin America." "China and Peru are enjoying one of their best moments. President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski chose China as his first international trip as head of state, showing that China is a priority in the foreign policy of Peru's new government." "This level of reciprocity will be consolidated during the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting in Lima, where President Xi Jinping will come." (Xinhua)

Tens of Thousands Protest Trump's Election Victory

WASHINGTON - Immigrants and their advocates added their voices on Sunday to those who have been marching and protesting Donald Trump's presidential win. Organizers said the protest in Manhattan was about speaking out against Trump's support of deportation and other measures. Demonstrators carried signs in English and Spanish saying things like "Hate won't make us great," and chanted, "We are here to stay." It was the latest in days

of demonstrations across the country. Other protests were expected Sunday in San Francisco, St. Louis, Philadelphia, Denver and more. On Saturday, demonstrators gathered in big cities like New York and Los Angeles, as well as in smaller places like Worcester, Massachusetts, and Iowa City, Iowa. In Los Angeles, an estimated 8,000 people



marched Saturday to condemn what they saw as Trump's hate speech about Muslims, pledge to deport people in the

Erdogan Vows Referendum for EU Membership Bid in 2017

ANKARA - Turkey could hold a Brexit-like referendum next year on whether to continue membership talks with the EU, Turkish President Erdogan said Monday, local NTV reported. Erdogan slammed European Parliament (EP) President Martin Schulz for his remarks that the EU could impose sanctions on Turkey following its anti-terror arrests. In a televised speech, Erdogan cited calls from some EU members states to stop membership ne-

gotiations with Turkey and said "You are even too late. Make up your mind immediately," he said. "We will be patient until the end of the year, and then go to public vote. Final decision shall be made by the nation. Let's ask the nation," he stated. If Turkish parliament passes a law on reinstating death penalty, he would approve it, the president said. Meanwhile, Turkish

Turkish President to Visit Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan of Turkey is visiting Pakistan from November 16 to November 17 at the invitation of Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain, Pakistan's Foreign Ministry said Monday. Erdogan will be accompanied by a high-level entourage including ministers and senior officials as well as a large business delegation, a Foreign Ministry statement said.

Besides meeting with Mamnoon Hussain, Erdogan would be holding talks with Pakistani Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif. The exchange of views between the two leaders would cover the entire range of bilateral matters as well as regional and international issues, said the statement. The Turkish president is also scheduled to address the Joint Session of Parliament. (Xinhua)

EU, Britain Should Find New Model: Slovak PM

BRATISLAVA - Britain and the EU will need to find a completely new model during and after Brexit, Slovak Prime Minister Robert Fico said Monday. Addressing the Conference of Parliamentary Committees for Union Affairs of Parliaments of the European Union (COSAC) here, Fico said it probably won't be possible to apply the model for relations with Switzerland and Norway. "Relations with Britain are so specific that we

have to come up with a new model," he said. As 80,000 Slovaks and around 1 million Poles live in Britain, "we need top-notch and balanced relations but also the respect for national peculiarities and demands so that these people won't be turned into second class citizens," he emphasized. "We fully respect Britain's decision, but it's not possible for Britain to cherry-pick. We won't negotiate about the four

Danger and Relief as Iraqi Special Forces Push Deeper into Mosul

QADISIYAH, IRAQ - An explosion went off outside the safe house where Iraqi Counter Terrorism Services Gen. Abdulwahab al-Saadi kept watch over his men. Another suicide car bomb had detonated. Yahoo News went to the frontline at Iraq's Qadisiyah district in northeastern Mosul, to find out how the CTS forces were faring in their effort to push back the Islamic State. Since the start of the operation in October, Iraqi forces have been able to retake considerable ground in the

mosul area from the militants, and are now making incursions into the city itself. In the safe house, the sounds of clashes less than 500 feet away were loud, and explosions shook the walls. Gunfire could be heard from snipers and CTS forces exchanging fire. Saadi told Yahoo News that at Qadisiyah, "We are going a bit slower because of the civilians, we don't want to hurt



them in any way. As you hear now, we are only using smaller weapons like the M4 [carbine] and the Kalashnikovs. For now, we are trying not to use air strikes because ISIS is among the civilians." Saadi took us to another

Iran, Russia Cooperating on Middle East Issues: Larijani

TEHRAN - Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani says the Islamic Republic and Russia are cooperating on issues related to the Middle East. "Considering the developments that have taken place on the international scene, we [Iran] are cooperating with Russia in the region," Larijani said in a joint press conference with Russia's Federation Council Chairperson Valentina Ivanovna Matvienko in Tehran on Sunday following an earlier meeting. He added that Iran and Russia have taken steps over recent years to broaden relations and said Matvienko's current

visit to Tehran would play a key role in developing trade, political, parliamentary and security cooperation between the two sides. "We have had close and positive relations in economic, political and security fields," Larijani said. He noted that he had held "very useful and constructive" talks with the top Russian parliamentarian, adding that the two sides offered good proposals on regional and international issues. The Iranian parliament speaker said the two sides also discussed ways to increase cooperation in railway transportation and energy. (Prestsv)

Putin May Discuss Syria with Obama in Peru: Kremlin

MOSCOW - Russia's President Vladimir Putin and his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama may discuss developments around Syria when both leaders come to Peru later this week, state TASS agency quoted Kremlin's spokesman as saying on Monday. Dmitry Peskov said the two presidents may meet on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit that Peru should host on November 19-20. Peskov reiterated that Putin had no immediate plan to meet the U.S. president-elect Donald Trump in person. (Reuters)

German Foreign Minister Tapped to Become next President

BERLIN - Germany's foreign minister, who once referred to Donald Trump as a "hate preacher," was tapped Monday to become his country's next president. Frank-Walter Steinmeier would take over the largely ceremonial role as head of state from Joachim Gauck, whose five-year term ends in February. German news agency dpa reported Monday that Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative Union bloc would back Steinmeier's nomination for the post. Together with the votes of Steinmeier's own



center-left Social Democratic Party, the 60-year-old political veteran would likely have enough support to win a vote among the 1,260 delegates who elect Germany's next president on Feb. 12. Steinmeier is regularly ranked among Germany's

Turkey-Backed Syria Rebels Poised to Attack IS-Held City

BEIRUT - Syrian rebels backed by Turkey were poised to begin an assault to try to drive Islamic State from the Syrian city of al-Bab, two of their commanders said on Monday, a battle that could also prompt new fighting with Kurdish groups that are competing for the area. Further escalation in the complex, multi-sided conflict in northern Syria has the potential to undermine a campaign supported by an international coalition led by the United States to oust Islamic State from its Syrian capital of Raqqa. Al-Bab is fast becoming a major fault-line in the war in northern Syria, bringing Free Syrian Army rebels backed by Turkish armor closer than ever to frontlines held by the Syrian government and its Iranian and Russian allies in nearby Aleppo. "There is nothing between us and al-Bab," said one of the rebels, a commander in one of the groups fighting under the Free Syrian Army (FSA) banner taking part in the Turkey-backed Euphrates Shield operation in north Syria that began in August. "If not in hours then in a very few days we will be inside al-Bab," the commander told Reuters, declining to be identified. The Britain-based war monitor, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights on Monday cited residents saying areas surrounding al-Bab were being struck by Turkish and FSA artillery. Another FSA commander who identified himself by the nom de guerre, Abu Assad Dabiq, said rebels were less than 3 km (2 miles) away. (Reuters)

Abe Says Japan, U.S. Shall Share Costs of U.S. Troops Stationed in Japan

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday that Japan and the United States shall share in an "appropriate" way the costs of U.S. troops stationed in Japan. Abe told a session at Japan's upper house of parliament that as the United States also benefit from stationing its troops in Japan, the costs shall be shared between the two countries. U.S. President-elect Donald Trump was quoted as saying earlier this year that countries like Japan, South Korea and Germany should pay for all costs related to U.S. Troops' presence in those countries. Japanese Defense Minister Tomomi Inada said last week that she believed Japan is paying enough for the cost of the U.S. forces being stationed here. Tokyo pays nearly 200 billion yen (1.9 billion U.S. dollars) a year, or about 75 percent of the costs, for the 50,000 US troops stationed in Japan, according to local reports. (Xinhua)

Trump "Saddened" by Rising Cases of Harassment of Minorities

WASHINGTON - U.S. presidential election winner Donald Trump on Sunday told his supporters to stop harassing minorities in his first televised interview as president-elect. Trump said he was "saddened" by reports that incidents of harassment and intimidation of minorities had spiked since his election. "I hate to hear that. I am so saddened to hear that," Trump said when asked about the reports at the interview with the CBS's "60 Minutes," which was

taped Friday and aired in full Sunday. Police across the country are investigating a wave of alleged hate crimes against Muslims, Hispanic Americans, black people, ethnic minorities and the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community in the wake of the U.S. election. Attackers professing support for Trump have been accused of numerous attacks following his shock victory, including death threats, physical assaults and racist graffiti. Among the

Uzbekistan Increasing Security Amid Presidential Election



TASHKENT - Law enforcement bodies of Uzbekistan are carrying out necessary measures to maintain the public order, ensure security of citizens and guests of the republic during the presidential election campaign, head of the department of human rights protection and legal support of the country's interior ministry Ilhom Turgunov told reporters in Uzbekistan Nov. 14. Earlier, the Central Election Commission of Uzbekistan adopted a resolution on additional measures to ensure public order and security during the preparation and holding of the upcoming Dec.

4 presidential election. A sufficient number of employees of the Uzbek internal affairs, transport, communication and other equipment were allocated to ensure security at the polling districts and stations, Turgunov said. The polling stations are equipped with automatic fire alarm systems, he added. Complex work is also carried out to ensure road safety in Uzbekistan on the election day, Turgunov noted. For example, additional traffic signs are being installed, parking lots are being equipped on the roads leading to polling stations, he said. (Trend)