

World has 'Rare Moment' to end Violence in Syria: Moon

BELEK - U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Sunday he welcomed the renewed sense of urgency to find a solution to the civil war in Syria after the Paris attacks, adding the world had a "rare moment" of diplomatic opportunity to end the violence. Russia, the United States and powers from Europe and the Middle East outlined a plan on Saturday for a political process in Syria leading to elections within two years, a day after gunmen and suicide bombers from Islamic State went on a rampage through Paris, killing at least 127 people. At a news conference dur-



ing the Group of 20 (G20) meeting of world leaders in Turkey, Ban described the attacks as 'barbaric,' saying no country or city was immune from the threat of terrorism and the world needed a robust response. He said the Syria roadmap agreed on Saturday was 'encouraging and ... (More on P4)...(20)

71 Injured in Stampede Incident in Malta

VALLETTA - A total of 71 people were injured on late Saturday night at a night club in St Julian's, Malta when a glass banister collapsed under the pressure of scores of people who were trying to leave all at once down a staircase. The stampede happened at about 12:30 am local time (2200 GMT) at +1 club in Paceville, the most popular destination for tourists. Two girls were in critical condition and another six were kept in hospital for further treatment. It is reported that the authorities were investigating a possible gas leak. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Islamabad, Tajikistan Chambers Signed MoU

ISLAMABAD - Islamabad Chambers of Commerce and Industry have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote mutual cooperation between private sectors of both countries for enhancement of bilateral trade, investment, joint ventures and technology transfer in the areas of interest. Islamabad Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ICCI) President Atifkram Sheikh and Tajikistan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (TCCI) Chairman Sharif Said signed the MoU at ICCI on Saturday. Speaking on the occasion, the TCCI chairman Sharif Said said that Tajikistan has initiated 471 investment projects in various sector including agro industry, pharmaceutical, food and processing industry, building materials, transport and communication, chemical and power sectors and stressed that the Pakistani investors should explore investment opportunities in his country. He said Pakistan's small industries have great potential in Tajikistan to flourish, adding that Tajikistan was rich in energy resources and was producing cheapest electricity in the world, while only 5% of its electricity was being exported. (Agencies)

Turkey Cancels \$3.4 Billion Missile Defense System Tender

BELEK - Turkey has canceled a \$3.4 billion long-range missile defense system tender which was provisionally awarded to China, a move that had stirred U.S. and Western concern, an official at the Turkish prime minister's office told Reuters on Sunday. NATO member Turkey in 2013 had chosen China Precision Machinery Import and Export Corp as the preferred candidate for the deal, sparking Western worries over inherent security risks from Chinese technology. "It has been decided that this tender will be canceled," an official at Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu's office said. "This decision has been signed of by the Prime Minister this week." An official from Turkey's Defence Industry Undersecretariat, which has run the technical negotiations with China, said in July that a major stumbling block has been China's reluctance to make a technology transfer which could give Turkey the knowledge to operate the system and eventually replicate it. The prime ministry official said Ankara was now planning to go solo. "Turkey ... (More on P4)...(21)

France will revise its security strategy in order to better respond to terror attacks after a series of shootings and suicide bombings struck the capital city of Paris on Friday, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Sunday. "The scale of the threat has changed. It has militarized and our defense strategy must be adapted to that. This is a considerable challenge and France will meet it," Le Drian told local weekly Le Journal de Dimanche. "After the launch of Sentinel operation (after attacks on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in January), it became necessary to define a new strategy on the use of the country's armed forces," he added. On Friday night, French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency after what he called "unprecedented terrorist attacks" in which at least 129 people were killed and 352 others were injured, of whom 99 are in critical situation. After the attacks, Hollande ordered an additional deployment of 1,500 military officers in Paris to ensure the safety of public places. The government, which has already deployed 10,000 soldiers across the country after the January attacks, is keeping the Vigipirate security system at the highest level. During Friday's bloodshed, three groups of armed men targeted restaurants, coffee shops, a concert hall and a stadium, using multiple tactics such as shooting, suicide bombing and hijacking hostages in a coordinated manner. Seven assailants blew themselves up, one of whom was identified as Ismail Omar Mustafa - a French national known to have links with Islamist militants. A Syrian and an Egyptian passport have been found near the bodies of two suicide bombers near the Stade de France stadium. According to Greek officials, the holder of the Syrian passport passed through the Greek island of Leros in October. (Xinhua)

France to Revise Security Policy after Paris Attacks: Minister

PARIS - France will revise its security strategy in order to better respond to terror attacks after a series of shootings and suicide bombings struck the capital city of Paris on Friday, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Sunday. "The scale of the threat has changed. It has militarized and our defense strategy must be adapted to that. This is a considerable challenge and France will meet it," Le Drian told local weekly Le Journal de Dimanche. "After the launch of Sentinel operation (after attacks on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in January), it became necessary to define a new strategy on the use of the country's armed forces," he added. On Friday night, French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency after what he called "unprecedented terrorist attacks" in which at least 129 people were killed and 352 others were injured, of whom 99 are in critical situation. After the attacks, Hollande ordered an additional deployment of 1,500 military officers in Paris to ensure the safety of public places. The government, which has already deployed 10,000 soldiers across the country after the January attacks, is keeping the Vigipirate security system at the highest level. During Friday's bloodshed, three groups of armed men targeted restaurants, coffee shops, a concert hall and a stadium, using multiple tactics such as shooting, suicide bombing and hijacking hostages in a coordinated manner. Seven assailants blew themselves up, one of whom was identified as Ismail Omar Mustafa - a French national known to have links with Islamist militants. A Syrian and an Egyptian passport have been found near the bodies of two suicide bombers near the Stade de France stadium. According to Greek officials, the holder of the Syrian passport passed through the Greek island of Leros in October. (Xinhua)

France will revise its security strategy in order to better respond to terror attacks after a series of shootings and suicide bombings struck the capital city of Paris on Friday, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Sunday. "The scale of the threat has changed. It has militarized and our defense strategy must be adapted to that. This is a considerable challenge and France will meet it," Le Drian told local weekly Le Journal de Dimanche. "After the launch of Sentinel operation (after attacks on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in January), it became necessary to define a new strategy on the use of the country's armed forces," he added. On Friday night, French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency after what he called "unprecedented terrorist attacks" in which at least 129 people were killed and 352 others were injured, of whom 99 are in critical situation. After the attacks, Hollande ordered an additional deployment of 1,500 military officers in Paris to ensure the safety of public places. The government, which has already deployed 10,000 soldiers across the country after the January attacks, is keeping the Vigipirate security system at the highest level. During Friday's bloodshed, three groups of armed men targeted restaurants, coffee shops, a concert hall and a stadium, using multiple tactics such as shooting, suicide bombing and hijacking hostages in a coordinated manner. Seven assailants blew themselves up, one of whom was identified as Ismail Omar Mustafa - a French national known to have links with Islamist militants. A Syrian and an Egyptian passport have been found near the bodies of two suicide bombers near the Stade de France stadium. According to Greek officials, the holder of the Syrian passport passed through the Greek island of Leros in October. (Xinhua)



France will revise its security strategy in order to better respond to terror attacks after a series of shootings and suicide bombings struck the capital city of Paris on Friday, French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Sunday. "The scale of the threat has changed. It has militarized and our defense strategy must be adapted to that. This is a considerable challenge and France will meet it," Le Drian told local weekly Le Journal de Dimanche. "After the launch of Sentinel operation (after attacks on the Charlie Hebdo magazine in January), it became necessary to define a new strategy on the use of the country's armed forces," he added. On Friday night, French President Francois Hollande declared a state of emergency after what he called "unprecedented terrorist attacks" in which at least 129 people were killed and 352 others were injured, of whom 99 are in critical situation. After the attacks, Hollande ordered an additional deployment of 1,500 military officers in Paris to ensure the safety of public places. The government, which has already deployed 10,000 soldiers across the country after the January attacks, is keeping the Vigipirate security system at the highest level. During Friday's bloodshed, three groups of armed men targeted restaurants, coffee shops, a concert hall and a stadium, using multiple tactics such as shooting, suicide bombing and hijacking hostages in a coordinated manner. Seven assailants blew themselves up, one of whom was identified as Ismail Omar Mustafa - a French national known to have links with Islamist militants. A Syrian and an Egyptian passport have been found near the bodies of two suicide bombers near the Stade de France stadium. According to Greek officials, the holder of the Syrian passport passed through the Greek island of Leros in October. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Rules out IS Presence in Its Territory

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Secretary Aizaz Chaudhry on Sunday ruled out the possibility of self-styled terrorist outfit Islamic State's presence in Pakistan, Radio Pakistan reported. In an interview, Chaudhry said no one in Pakistan will be allowed to have links with Daesh - Arabic acronym for the Islamic State (IS). The foreign secretary said Pakistan is fully capable of thwarting all threats from the IS or any other extremist organisation, adding that the country was winning the war against terror with full support of its people. While Pakistan's official stance on IS's presence in the country has been outright denial, some traces of the militant groups' presence have come to the surface in recent times. Reports of IS activity inside the country emerged in 2014 against the backdrop of two ongoing military operations against the TTP and its affiliates in North Waziristan and Khyber Agency. (Agencies)

UN Chief Urges World Leaders to Reach Compromise on Climate Change

ANTALYA - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon Sunday called on world leaders to step up their efforts to eliminate their differences in order to reach an agreement in Paris in late November on tackling the climate challenge for the global community. "With two weeks left before the start of COP-21, it is urgent that all leaders work to find compromises," Ban told a press conference in Antalya, a seaside resort city in southwest Turkey, referring to the 21st session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The annual gathering, which will start on Nov. 30 and go through Dec. 11 in Paris, aims to finalize a global agreement to climate change. French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius has announced that U.S. President Barack Obama and other world leaders will still attend the summit despite the recent spat of terrorist attacks. The event has been described as one of the most

critical efforts to fight global warming, and perhaps the last chance to prevent its worst consequences from happening. A total of 161 countries representing more than 90 percent of global emissions have now submitted their intended nationally determined contributions, according to the UN chief, who arrived here Saturday for the annual summit of the Group of 20 leading industrial ... (More on P4)...(22)



critical efforts to fight global warming, and perhaps the last chance to prevent its worst consequences from happening. A total of 161 countries representing more than 90 percent of global emissions have now submitted their intended nationally determined contributions, according to the UN chief, who arrived here Saturday for the annual summit of the Group of 20 leading industrial ... (More on P4)...(22)

Zarif, Kerry Discuss Hold Meeting on JCPOA in Vienna

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the manner of removing sanctions and the implementation of the United States' commitments have been discussed during a meeting with US Secretary of State John Kerry. Zarif said after the Saturday meeting that the "axis of talks over the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) was based on the guidelines of Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei." He added that the meeting also fo-

cus on the execution of an official document to redesign the Arak heavy-water nuclear reactor. The two counterparts met following a Syria peace conference held in the Austria capital. Meanwhile, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said that the signing of the official document to redesign the reactor is currently being done by Iran and the world powers and "will be completed by Monday." Araqchi made the comments following a meeting with EU Deputy ... (More on P4)...(23)

Iran Says Up to Assad to Decide on Syria Election Run

TEHRAN - A top Iranian official said Sunday several countries involved in Syria peace talks had tried to exclude President Bashar al-Assad from future elections but Tehran insisted the demand be withdrawn. The remarks came after officials said agreement was reached on a roadmap to a more inclusive government in Damascus in the next six months aimed at ending Syria's conflict, with polls to follow one year later. The peace talks involving 20 countries and organizations meeting in Vienna however remained deeply divided on the future of Assad, whose main regional ally has been Iran. A final statement after Saturday's meeting said the goal was to bring Syrian government and opposition representatives together by January 1, but the political process would require a ceasefire. It failed to breach the divide over Assad, however, and Iran's deputy foreign minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian went further by saying only the Syrian president could decide on whether to contest future polls. "Some participants insisted that the sidelining of Bashar al-Assad be included in the text, but the Islamic Republic of Iran did not allow this issue to be mentioned in the final declaration," he told state television. (AFP)

Bavarian Allies Pressure Merkel to Reverse Refugee Policy

BERLIN - Bavarian allies cranked up pressure on German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Sunday to reverse her "open-door" refugee policy, saying the deadly attacks in Paris underlined the need for tougher measures to control the influx of migrants. The coordinated assault in the French capital, in which at least 129 people were killed, has fueled a debate in Germany over Merkel's welcoming approach to refugees and on how to pin down better intelligence about people entering the country. The holder of a Syrian passport found near the body of one of the gunmen from Friday night's attacks passed through Greece in October, a Greek minister said, and another suspected attacker was thought to have entered Europe the same way. "The days of uncontrolled immigration and illegal entry can't continue just like that. Paris changes everything," Bavarian Finance Minister Markus Soeder told Welt am Sonntag newspaper. His comments came after Bavarian state premier Horst Seehofer, leader of Merkel's sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), urged better protection of Germany's frontier and called for stricter controls at Europe's external borders. "The CSU stands behind the chancellor, but it would be good if Angela Merkel acknowledged that the opening of the border for an unlimited period ... (More on P4)...(24)

ASEAN Economic Community to bring Opportunities, Challenges to Vietnam

HANOI - As a member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), Vietnam will face both opportunities for growth and challenges when the ASEAN Economic Community (AEC) is established by the yearend. According to Le Dang Doanh, former head of Vietnam's Central Institute for Economic Management, AEC will create a single market with the free flow of goods, services and investments within the regional grouping.

Quoting statistics from the International Labor Organization (ILO), Doanh said that Vietnam's economy is forecast to achieve an extra growth of 14.5 percent after joining AEC, while the inflow foreign investments to Vietnam will increase. "Vietnam will have a bigger market and exports to other ASEAN markets," Doanh said. Once the ASEAN Community is fully established, Vietnamese exports to traditional ASEAN mar-

kets, such as Singapore, Indonesia, Thailand, and to the non-traditional markets such as Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar, will expand through tariff and non-tariff privileges, Doanh said. "This is a big opportunity for Vietnam. A competitive economy will help improve Vietnamese enterprises, expand the quality of their products, human resources, capital resources and management capacity," Doanh said. (Xinhua)

Palestine Urges World to Make Independence Day a Reality

RAMALLAH - A senior Palestinian official on Sunday urged the international community to turn the independence day observed by Palestinians a reality on the ground. Secretary General of the Palestine Liberation Organization Saeb Erekat said that the time has come to embody the independence of the State of Palestine on the ground "as a political and a legal entitlement and a human right." The international political system bears the legal and moral responsibility for this move, Erekat added. He said that the declaration, read by late Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, marked a new stage in the Palestinian people's struggle for independence, freedom and the establishment of their state. Erekat added that the accumulative sacrifices of the Palestinian people and leadership have led 137 countries to recognize the Palestinian state, and the United Nations elevated Palestine representation to that of non-state observer status in 2012, and made Palestinians members of international treaties such as the international criminal court in 2014. Palestinians commemorate the 27th anniversary of the declaration of independence, announced by Arafat on Nov. 15, 1988 in front of the Palestine National Council. However, the state was never accomplished on the ground due to the struggling peace process between ... (More on P4)...(26)

Security Forces, Air Strikes Kill 13 IS Militants in W.Iraq

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi security forces backed by Iraqi and the U.S.-led coalition aircraft on Sunday foiled four suicide car bomb attacks and killed 13 Islamic State (IS) militants in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said. The international aircraft carried out an air strike on the IS positions in an area near the town of Khaldiya, some 80 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leaving 13 IS militants killed and destroying two houses and three of their vehicles, the source said citing intelligence report. Separately, the security forces and allied paramilitary units, known as Hashd Shaabi,

repelled an attack by two suicide car bombs on military positions in Albu-Farraj area, just north of the IS-held provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The troops destroyed the two car bombs and killed the two suicide bombers by anti-tank guided missiles before they reach their targets, the source said. Meanwhile, the U.S.-led coalition aircraft bombarded two suicide car bombs before as they were on their way to attack the army positions in Jeraishi area, destroying the two car bombs and killing the two ... (More on P4)...(25)

China's Police Chief Urges Heightened Alert Against Terrorism

BEIJING - Guo Shengkun, head of the national anti-terrorism leading group and China's police chief, urged heightened alert and prevention of terrorism on Sunday following the Paris attacks. At a televised meeting jointly held by the leading group and the Ministry of Public Security (MPS), Guo urged all departments and localities to boost preparedness, intelligence and early warning against terrorism to ensure public security and social stability. Attendees of the meeting also learned about information related to the Paris attacks. Guo asked officials at all levels to be deeply aware of the daunting and complicated nature of the anti-terror battle, and to never relax their awareness or take chances when it comes to protecting people's safety and property. He urged particular focus on important venues for prevention measures, strengthening patrols and security checks. Guo also stressed strict management of guns, explosives and mail, as well as timely conflict resolution among the public to prevent violence and extremism. Meanwhile, greater efforts will be made to collect and analyze anti-terror intelligence, Guo said, adding that the task requires precision. Guo stressed the public's role in the "people's war on terror" and maintaining a heavy-handed crackdown on terrorist activities. (Xinhua)