

France's Square of the Republic Evacuated after Bomb Alert

PARIS - France's Square of the Republic and the metro station of the Republic were evacuated Tuesday around 1300 local time (1200 GMT) during a "normal procedure for verification" by the police, French BFMTV reported on Tuesday on its website. "There was an anonymous call to report that a bomb would explode at 14h00. Even if it is a hoax, we have to take the threat seriously," BFMTV reported, citing a police source.

This alert resulted in a partial interruption on



the traffic of lines 3, 5, 8, 9 and 11, which pass

through station of the Republic," RATP said.

Months after deadly attacks in January on satire magazine Charlie Hebdo that left dozens

dead in Paris, calmness was broken once again in the French capital on Nov. 13 where fresh explosions and a series of shootings killed at least 130 people and wounded scores others. The suspected mastermind of the Paris attacks Abdelhamid Abaoud was killed on Nov. 18 during a police raid in northern Paris suburbs Saint-Denis. But another main suspect Salah Abdeslam is still at large. France has been in state of emergency since the attacks on Nov. 13.(Xinhua)

French and Russian Authorities to Increase Fan Zone Security

PARIS - French and Russian authorities plan to increase security at fan zones at next year's European Championship and the 2018 World Cup following the attacks in Paris. French Interior minister Bernard Cazeneuve said Tuesday security for Euro 2016, scheduled from June 10-July 10 in France, will be reinforced to ensure "the fan zones will be put in place." Russian Sports Minister Vitaly Mutko, who chairs the organizing committee for the World Cup, said there was a particular focus on protect-

ing crowds gathered in fan zones. "Today our colleagues from FIFA focused on us paying more attention to the fan zones," Mutko said. "Of course that will be done." Fan zones are typically set up in squares or parks near the center of the city, allowing supporters to watch a game on a big screen. Security can be lighter than at stadiums. The plan is part of a general tightening up of security for the World Cup, Mutko said following a meeting with FIFA representa... (More on P4)...(19)

Russian Warplane not Violates Turkish Airspace: Putin

SOCHI - Russian President Vladimir Putin said Tuesday that the Russian Su-24 warplane, which was attacked 1 km away from the Syrian border with Turkey and crashed 4 km away, had not violated Turkey's airspace. "When attacked in the air, the plane was flying at an altitude of 6,000 meters, one kilometer away from the Turkish territory," Putin said as he met with King Abdullah

II of Jordan in Russia's Sochi. He said that the plane was shot down by an air-to-air missile launched by a Turkish F-16 jet in the Syrian airspace and the Su-24 fell in Syria 4km away from the Turkish border. "The Russian pilots and the warplane have in no way threatened Turkey. This is obvious," Putin said, describing the incident as "a stab in the back." ... (More on P4)...(20)

Turkish PM Announces New Cabinet

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu announced new cabinet on Tuesday after the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) secured a comfortable majority at parliament on Nov. 1 parliamentary elections. Former Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu was assigned as new minister for foreign affairs. Mehmet Simsek becomes deputy prime minister in charge of economy, while Mustafa Elitas was assigned for ministry for economy. New cabinet did not include Ali Ba-



becan, who had carried responsibility for Turkish economy for many terms since the AKP took

power. Berat Albayrak, President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's son-in-law, became the country's new energy minister. Volkan Bozkir remained as Turkey's European Union minister.(Xinhua)

Tension between Ankara, Moscow Mounts over Downing of Russian Jet

ANKARA - Tension between Turkey and Russia has escalated after Turkish war jets shot down a Russian military aircraft on border with Syria earlier on Tuesday.

According to a Turkish military statement, two Turkish F-16s shot down SU-24 airplane after repeatedly warning its pilots they were violating Turkish airspace for 10 times in a five minute period. The statement did not identify the plane as Russian, but Turkish presidential sources said it was "believed to be a Russian." How-

ever, Russia's defense ministry disputed that account, saying that an Su-24 was hit by an artillery fire from the ground and downed to Syrian territory, according to preliminary findings. In any case, the incident may spark a new diplomatic crisis between Turkey and Russia, two neighbors that have been at odds over Syria since 2011.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned Russian charge d'affaires in Ankara over violation of its air space by the Russian warplane which was shot down, a Turkish Foreign Minis-



try official told Xinhua. It also carries a potential armed conflict between a NATO member Turkey and Russia because it is the first time a NATO member has hit a Russian military aircraft since the 1950s at the outset of the Cold War. "Both countries should avoid escalating the situation," Yasar Yakis, Turkey's former foreign minister, said. "If the armed conflict in Syria spills over ties between Turkey and Russia, all other areas will be negatively impacted from this," he warned. (Xinhua)

Sweden to Tighten Asylum Rules, Border Controls as Asylum Numbers Soar

STOCKHOLM - Sweden will introduce tighter border controls and asylum rules in a bid to reduce the number of asylum seekers reaching the country, the government said on Tuesday. "The aim of the measures we are presenting now is to create a breathing space for Sweden's asylum system," Prime Minister Stefan Lofven told reporters. The government said it planned to widen the number of asylum seekers receiving temporary asylum with the only exception being those coming to Sweden under



international quota agreements. In addition, the country will introduce ID checks on all public transport into the country from the continent and tighten rules for family reunion. The Nordic

country is struggling to cope with up to 190,000 asylum seekers expected this year - a record - with some new arrivals having had to sleep rough due to a shortage of accommodation.(Reuters)

Iran, US Officials Discuss JCPOA Implementation



TEHRAN - Representatives of Iran and the United States have discussed ways to implement a landmark nuclear deal reached between the Islamic Republic and six world powers in July. Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Abbas Araqchi held an hour-long meeting in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Tuesday with Stephen Mull, who is the US lead coordinator for the implementation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). On July 14, Iran and the P5+1 group of world powers - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia plus Germany - finalized the text of the JCPOA in Vienna. Under the JCPOA, limits will be put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all nuclear-related economic and financial bans against the Islamic Republic. Araqchi, who is the head of Iran Foreign Ministry's committee for following up on the implementation of the JCPOA, is scheduled to hold talks with Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Yukiya Amano in Vienna later on Tuesday. Also on Tuesday, Araqchi will meet European Union deputy foreign policy chief Helga Schmidt, who represents the P5+1 countries.(PressTV)

Hollande Visits Washington

WASHINGTON - President Francois Hollande of France arrived Tuesday for talks with US President Barack Obama on how to confront the threat posed by the Islamic State group in the wake of the Paris attacks. The French president landed at Andrews Air Force Base outside the US capital, and was to go directly to the White House for talks followed by a joint press conference.

Hollande's trip to Washington is part of a frantic week of shuttle diplomacy by the French leader to rally global support to fight IS. Gunmen linked to the group killed 130 people in near simultaneous gun and bomb attacks across Paris on November 13. Hollande will hold talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel in Paris on Wednesday and with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow on Thursday, before receiving Chinese Premier Xi Jinping in the French capital on Sunday.(AFP)

Cambodia, Russia Sign 10 Cooperation Agreements

PHNOM PENH - Cambodia and Russia on Tuesday reached 10 agreements, aiming to promote ties and cooperation between the two countries, according to an announcement at the signing ceremony here. The pacts were signed by senior officials of the two countries at the Peace Palace under the presence of Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and visiting Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev. The deals included cooperation in nuclear power technologies for peaceful development, information exchange on money laundering and terrorism financing, air transport services, investment, information, culture, ... (More on P4)...(22)

Palestinians Condemn Kerry's "Bias" on Attacks Against Israel

RAMALLAH - Palestinian parties condemned on Tuesday positions of the U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on recent attacks against Israel ahead of his meeting with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in the West Bank city of Ramallah. Kerry held talks with the Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Jerusalem Tuesday morning and referred to Palestinian attacks against Israel as "terror" attacks. Secretary General of Fatah's Revolutionary Council Amin Maqbul told Xinhua that Kerry's remarks signal bias of the U.S. adminis-

tration towards Israel, adding that such statements prove that Washington is not an "impartial" broker. He didn't convey any optimism in regards to Kerry's talks in the region, saying that he seeks a "free calmness" without active proposals to end the occupation. Israel occupied the West Bank, east Jerusalem and Gaza Strip territories, where Palestinians wish to establish a state according to the two-state solution, in the 1967 Mideast War. Kerry has started on Tuesday his first visit to Israel and Palestine in more than a year, in a bid... (More on P4)...(21)

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EU to Resume Deportations of Migrants to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Europe's migration commissioner has said an agreement to deport undocumented migrants to Pakistan will be restored, after Islamabad announced it had suspended the deal because of its "blatant misuse". The 2010 agreement aimed to facilitate the return of Pakistani illegal immigrants and other nationals who had transited through Pakistan before arriving in the European Union. Islamabad had re-

cently suspended the agreement with EU countries except Britain, denouncing misuse including the lack of "proper verification of their nationality". "There were some technical issues that have been clarified, in order to move ahead with the implementation of the repatriation agreement," Dimitris Avramopoulos told reporters in Islamabad on Monday after meeting with Pakistan's interior and foreign affairs ministers. (Agencies)

China Agrees Railway Deals with Hungary, Serbia

SUZHOU - China signed separate deals with Hungary and Serbia to construct and revamp a rail link between the Serbian and Hungarian capitals on Tuesday. Details of the two deals, made on the sidelines of an annual summit meeting between Chinese and Central and Eastern European (CEE) leaders, were not immediately available, but Chinese Premier Li Keqiang pledged earlier in the day that construction of the railway would be underway by the end of this year and be finished within two years. Earlier reports said the high-speed rail link could cut travel time between Budapest and Belgrade by more than half. The project for the modernization of the Belgrade-Budapest railway

was initially agreed on in 2013 at the China-Central and Eastern European (CEE) countries leaders' meeting that took place in Bucharest, while at last year's summit held in Belgrade, China, Hungary and Serbia signed a memorandum of understanding. At that point, Macedonia and Greece both expressed their willingness to partake in the project, which plans to turn Piraeus, the main port of Greece, into a Chinese hub for trade with Europe. The co-operation plan for the construction of the railway was signed at the beginning of this year in Belgrade at a meeting for the Trilateral Group of China, Hungary and Serbia for Traffic and Infrastructure Coopera... (More on P4)...(23)

U.S. has Plan to Divide Iraq, Pleads with Iraqis to Resist: Iran

DUBAI - Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei on Tuesday accused the United States of trying to divide Iraq along sectarian and ethnic lines and urged Iraqis to withstand any such plans. Shi'ite Muslim power Iran wields great influence in Iraq, which has a majority Shi'ite population. Its military advisers are helping direct Baghdad's campaign against Sunni Islamist militant group Islamic State, which seized around a third of Iraq's territory last year. It was not clear if Khamenei was referring to a specific incident, but Iran has protested about U.S. policy in Iraq

several times this year. "The Americans must not be allowed to consider Iraq as their personal property ... and dare to openly talk about disintegration of Iraq," Khamenei said according to his website. "The Iraqi people, Shi'ites, Sunnis, Kurds and Arabs have been living together peacefully but some regional countries and some foreigners are trying to amplify differences among them," he added. On Tuesday Khamenei met Iraq's President Fouad Massoud on the sidelines of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) Summit in Tehran.(Reuters)

Russia, Tajikistan Maintain Regional Stability: Kolokolstev

MOSCOW - Ministries of Internal Affairs for Russia and Tajikistan establish stability in the region, despite geopolitical and economic challenges, Russian Interior Minister Vladimir Kolokolstev said Tuesday. "Despite complex geopolitical processes, armed conflicts near our borders, increased activity of extremist organizations, as well as economic tendencies, measures that are being undertaken by [our] law-enforcement authorities allow taking control over the situ-

ation and stability of public order in the region," Kolokolstev said at a board meeting of Russian and Tajikistan Interior Ministries. Kolokolstev said that Russia and Tajikistan cooperate to prevent terrorist recruiters from crossing into their countries under the guise of asylum seekers, together conducting operations against leaders of extremist organizations. In July, Tajikistan's Interior Ministry announced that over 500 Tajik nationals were fighting within the IS ranks. (Sputnik)