

# IMF Forecasts World Economy to Grow at 3.1 Pct in 2016

WASHINGTON - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Tuesday maintained its forecast for global growth in 2016 at 3.1 percent, saying that subpar growth will continue without determined policy action.

The IMF revised down its 2016 growth prospects for advanced economies following a slowdown in the United States and Britain's vote to leave the European Union. It expects advanced economies to grow 1.6 percent in 2016,



lower than last year's 2.1 percent growth and also down from its July forecast of 1.8 percent.

The Washington-based institution marked up the growth forecast for emerging economies. It expects emerging markets and developing economies to grow 4.2 percent this year, slightly higher than its July forecast of 4.1 percent. It's the first time growth in both emerging markets and developing economies have accelerated in six years. (Xinhua)

## US Suspends Negotiations with Russia over Syria Ceasefire

WASHINGTON - The United States has suspended negotiations with Russia on restoring a ceasefire in Syria, the State Department said on Monday, blaming Moscow for its military role in the attack on the Syrian city of Aleppo.

The decision followed a threat from U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry last week as Washington is growingly impatient with Moscow on the Syria issue and posed new challenges on the prospects of a political solution to the

five-year-old conflict.

"This is not a decision that was taken lightly," State Department spokesperson John Kirby said in a statement, accusing Russia of failing to live up to its commitments on the ceasefire agreement on Syria reached last month.

Russia was "either unwilling or unable to ensure



Syrian regime adherence to the arrangements to which Moscow agreed," he added. The spokesperson also accused Moscow

and Damascus of targeting civilian areas and critical infrastructure such as hospitals and preventing

## UN General Assembly Members Grill Latest Candidate for Job of UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS - Bulgaria's Kristalina Georgieva, the latest candidate to enter the contest for the next secretary-general of the United Nations, on Monday went through a public grilling by members of the UN General Assembly.

Georgieva, an economist and diplomat, only threw her hat in the ring last week, joining eight others, including Irina Bokova, also of Bulgaria, but who has not been doing well in the informal "straw polls" conducted among members of the

UN Security Council. Antonio Guterres, former prime minister of Portugal and former head of the UN Refugee Agency, has been holding a substantial lead in the race.

The "informal dialogue" is a two-hour interview by members of the assembly, mostly representing various groups in the 193-member UN body, a few independent states and even some civil organizations. It is a new process, for candidates for the post, ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

## Nieghbor News

### China Sees Rising Holiday Trips, Spending

BEIJING - China has seen a marked increase in tourist visits and spending during this week's national holiday. Altogether 415 million people visited tourist attractions around the country in the past four days, up 13.8 percent from last year, according to estimates by the China National Tourism Administration (CNTA).

Nationwide, tourist spending rose 15.1 percent to 340 billion yuan (50 billion U.S. dollars), the CNTA said.

Tourist visits and

spending reached their peaks on Monday, with about 108 million people making trips and spending about 88 billion yuan.

Railways carried over 47.73 million passengers from Oct. 1 to Oct. 4, up 10.5 percent, according to the China Railway Corporation.

A total of around 480 billion yuan is expected to be spent during the holiday week, 13.5 percent more than last year, according to a survey by China Tourism Academy and Ctrip, an online travel agent. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan Hosts Third Highest Number of Refugees: Amnesty

LONDON - Pakistan hosts the third highest number of refugees in the world, according to a report released by rights group Amnesty International.

Home to 1.6 million refugees, Pakistan is third in line behind Jordan (over 2.7m refugees) and Turkey (over 2.5m refugees).

In a report on the plight faced by the world's 21 million refugees, the London-based human rights body said that 10 countries accounting for 2.5 per cent of world's GDP host more than half the world's refugees and slammed what it called the selfishness of wealthy nations. Many of the world's wealthiest nations "host the fewest and do the least", it said.

Amnesty lamented that countries immediately neighbouring crisis zones bear the brunt of the global refugee prob-

lem.

56pc of refugees are being sheltered in 10 countries, according to the report, in which Amnesty proposed a solution whereby the world's countries find a home for 10pc of the planet's refugees every year. "A small number of countries have been left to do far too much just because they are neighbours to a crisis," said Amnesty secretary general Salil Shetty, presenting the report entitled "Tackling the global refugee crisis: from shirking to sharing responsibility". "It is not simply a matter of sending aid money. Rich countries cannot pay to keep people 'over there'," it said.

The "self-interest" of such countries meant the international refugee crisis was set to get worse, not better, Amnesty claimed. (Monitoring Desk)

## Russian Finance Ministry Predicts Budget Deficit to Hit 3 Trillion Rubles in 2016

MOSCOW - The Russian Finance Ministry predicts that the country's budget deficit may reach 3 trillion rubles (about 48 billion U.S. dollars) in 2016, according to a document published on the Official Internet-Portal of Legal Information site on Tuesday.

The Finance Ministry forecasted that Russia's budget deficit may exceed 3.66 percent of the GDP in 2016, it said.

According to the document, the ministry has reduced revenues by 370 billion rubles (5.9 billion

dollars) to 13.3 trillion rubles (210 billion dollars). It has also increased the expenditures by over 300 billion rubles (4.8 billion dollars) to 16.4 trillion rubles (260 billion dollars), said the document.

In 2015, Russia's federal budget was 2.6 percent in deficit, amounting to some 1.9 trillion rubles (30 billion dollars), according to the ministry. The federal budget has come under increasing pressure from falling oil prices and a falling GDP growth rate throughout

## EU Lawmakers Approves Ratification of Paris Agreement by EU

STRASBOURG - The European Parliament on Tuesday approved the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the European Union (EU), paving the way for the deal to come into force globally.

The parliament gave its consent to the EU's ratification of the Agreement by 610 votes to 38, with 31 abstentions.

"Our vote paves the way to ensure that the agreement meets the necessary threshold," said European Parliament President Martin Schulz.

The entry into force of the



Paris agreement less than one year after its signature is a massive achievement, given that it took eight

years for the Kyoto protocol, he added.

Ratifications representing at least 55 parties and 55

percent of global emissions are needed for the agreement to enter into force....*(More on P4)...(21)*

## Indonesia Sentences IS-Linked Militant to 6 Years Imprisonment

JAKARTA - An Indonesian court sentenced an Islamic State (IS)-linked militant to six years imprisonment for his implication in series of terror attacks in the country and an attempt to murder the capital city governor. Presiding judge at South Jakarta court Siti Jamzannah said the militant, Arif Hidayatullah, was proved of received instructions to procure explosive materials and assembling them into bombs for the planned attacks, targeting worship places and Jakarta Governor Basuki Tjahaja Purnama. The instructions came from Bahrhun Naim, Siti said in the trial on Monday.

Bahrhun Naim, an Indonesian terrorist staying in Syria who has close links with senior IS leaders, ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## Foreign Direct Investment in S. Korea Hits Record High in Q3

SEOUL - Foreign direct investment into South Korea hit a record quarterly high in the July-September period as European investors sought higher-return investment, a government report showed on Tuesday.

FDI in South Korea reached a new high of 4.49 billion U.S. dollars in the third quarter, up 2.1 percent from a year ago, according to the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy. During the January-September period, the FDI reached 15.05 billion dollars, up 13.4 percent compared with the same period of last year.

For the first nine months of this year, European investors spent 5.32 billion dollars on investment into South Korean manufacturers and services companies, accounting for 35.3 percent of the total. The figure was up 194.8 percent from ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

## Russia Identify over 20 Launches of Intercontinental Ballistic Missiles in 2016

MOSCOW - Russia's Aerospace Defense Forces (VKO) identified over 20 launches of Russian and foreign intercontinental ballistic missiles in 2016, the Defense Ministry said Tuesday.

"Moreover, the VKO has conducted 16 launches of spacecraft under the Russian Federal Space Program, the Federal Target Program GLONASS (Global Navigation Satellite System), and international cooperation programs," the ministry said.

The ground-based forces of automated control complex of the VKO conducted



ed over 420,000 sessions with Russian spacecraft constellation, with about 1,500 sessions per day.

According to the ministry, the specialists of the Main Space Intelligence Center

found over 650 space objects, controlled the in-orbit delivery of more than 180 spacecraft and terminated ballistic existence of about 60 space objects. (Xinhua)

## Russia Confirms Embassy in Damascus Shelled from Mortars, no Casualties Reported

MOSCOW - The Russian embassy in the Syrian capital of Damascus was shelled with mortars on Monday with no casualties reported, the Russian Foreign Ministry confirmed Tuesday.

"The Russian diplomatic mission in Damascus was caught in mortar shelling on Oct. 3, and one of the mortars exploded in the embassy's territory near a residential complex, causing damage to the embassy's property," the ministry said in a statement.

"Two other mortar shells landed near the embassy building, causing no casualties." According to the statement, the explosion

was carried out from the region under control of the Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, formerly known as Nusra Front, and Faylaq al-Rahman militant groups. Moscow blamed the shelling on the United States and some of its allies for "provoking the continued bloody conflict in Syria." Tensions between Russia and the United States over Syria have been escalating recently, with each accusing the other of derailing the ceasefire.

On Monday, the U.S. State Department said Washington was suspending negotiations with Moscow on restoring a ceasefire in the war-battered country. (Xinhua)

## US Fears Iran Revolution's Impact on World: Assad

TEHRAN - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad says the United States is afraid of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution inspiring peoples across the world.

Washington is afraid that nations might follow the model of the Islamic Revolution, he told The Tehran Foreign Policy Studies Quarterly.

"Before the onset of the crisis [in Syria], the US insisted that Syria act against the axis of resistance and Iran. But we never agreed to enter such an atmosphere."

Ever since World War II, the US has only succeeded in creating challenges to the world and destroying countries, Assad said.

Epicenter of fight against terrorism The Americans, he added, wanted for the Syrian government to be replaced with a vassal state, which would easily hand the country over to the West.

Had such a scenario materialized, the rights of the Syrian people would have been ignored and the way would have been paved for eventual Western dominance over the Middle East region, he said.

While thanking Iran for its contribution to Syria's resistance in the face of terror, the Syrian head of state also said that, "Now, Syria has turned into the epicenter of the fight against terrorism in the world. What is happening in Syria today would impact the world's political map." (Presstv)

## Iran Says Higher Global Oil Prices Essential



TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says oil producing countries must take decisions to increase the oil price at international markets.

In a telephone conversation with Venezuelan President Nicolás Maduro on Monday, Rouhani commended the stance adopted by Caracas at an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) in Algeria in favor of maintaining Iran's oil quota and raising its oil output to pre-sanctions levels.

"All must make efforts so that the committee of experts would take decisions to clear the way for increasing global oil price in the [OPEC] meeting in November,"

the Iranian president said, adding that OPEC countries must hold "serious negotiations" with non-OPEC producers in order to increase and stabilize oil prices at international markets.

He also called for expert-level meetings to determine member countries' oil export quotas. OPEC members agreed during their extraordinary meeting in Algiers, Algeria, on Wednesday to limit production in an effort to raise the low crude prices. They decided to cut production by 750,000 barrels a day. Iran, however, has been exempted from the decision because of its exceptional situation of having been under sanctions for a number of years. (Presstv)

## Azerbaijani Defense Minister on Official Visit to Uzbekistan

BAKU - A delegation led by Azerbaijan's Defense Minister, Colonel General Zakir Hasanov arrived in Uzbekistan for an official visit on Tuesday. During the

visit, issues of military cooperation between the two countries and other issues of mutual interest will be discussed, said Azerbaijan's Defense Ministry. (APA)