

Russia Says No Intention to Compete with U.S. in Syria Talks

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Tuesday that Russia was not going to compete with the United States for the leading role in Syria talks.

"It was not a game of who is stronger and who is wiser. It was a sincere attempt, over a year, to find a peaceful solution to the Syrian problem," Zakharova told Russia's RT television.

She said "now it is absolutely clear" that the United States has not reached a single position on the Syrian issue, which became the key problem during talks between the



countries.

"It is clear that there are certain forces, groups of people, parties, who support one option of the issue's solution, and other groups of people, who defend the opposite viewpoint. They imagine the opposite vision of what's going on in Syria," Zakharova said, adding that "this is in my view the key reason why the United States failed to fulfill the agreements it had signed."

On Monday, the U.S. State Department said Washington was suspending negotiations with Russia on restoring a cease-fire in Syria. (Xinhua)

Iraq Summons Turkish Ambassador over Erdogan's Comments on Mosul Battle

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi Foreign Ministry on Wednesday summoned the Turkish ambassador to Baghdad over recent statements by Turkish leaders ahead of the imminent battles to flush out Islamic State (IS) militants from their last major stronghold in Mosul.

"The Foreign Ministry has summoned the Turkish ambassador to Baghdad to express condemnation of provocative statements made by top Turkish officials on Mosul," a ministry

spokesman said in a statement.

The move came a day after the Iraqi parliament passed a decision rejecting the Turkish parliament's decision on Tuesday which extended the mandate of Turkish forces for one more year near the city of Mosul in northern Iraq.

"We reject the decision of the Turkish parliament which permits incursion of Turkish troops into Iraqi territories. The Iraqi government must consider ... (More on P4)...(18)

Chinese Envoy Calls for Stronger Int'l Response to Foreign Terrorist Fighters

UNITED NATIONS - A Chinese envoy on Tuesday called for a stronger response from the international community to counter the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters.

Wu Haitao, China's deputy permanent representative to the UN, made the appeal here at a meeting on counter-terrorism, noting that the frequent cross-border flow of foreign terrorist fighters has caused ever greater harm to international security

and stability.

Foreign terrorist fighters are individuals who travel to a state other than their states of residence or nationality for the purpose of participating in terrorist acts.

Wu said countries should strengthen border control and law enforcement cooperation to stem the cross-border flow of foreign terrorist fighters, especially their "back flow." "The UN and the relevant international agencies should set up counter-ter-



rorism data bases as soon as possible and share intelligence so as to create conditions for effectively curbing the cross-border movement of foreign terrorist fighters," he added. On combating cyber terrorism, Wu noted that the ... (More on P4)...(19)

Turkey Summons Iraqi Ambassador over Decision on Removing Bashiqa Camp

ANKARA - Turkish Foreign Ministry summoned the Iraqi ambassador to Ankara on Wednesday, after the Iraqi parliament decided to remove the Bashiqa camp where Turkish troops train Iraqi forces, Daily Sabah reported.

Baghdad described on Tuesday Turkey's deployment of troops to the site near Mosul "a violation of Iraqi sovereignty" and called them "occupiers," insisting the Turkish forces be withdrawn. "We strongly condemn

the Iraqi parliament's unacceptable decision, including dirty accusations against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan," the Turkish Foreign ministry said in a statement.

Turkey said that the Bashiqa camp aimed to protect Turkish servicemen training Iraqi volunteers to fight the IS.

The statement urged Iraqi authorities to "take the friendly hand offered by Turkey" for the benefit of Iraq and the region "in a period which is so critical ... (More on P4)...(20)

Pence Breaks with Trump on Syria Policy during VP Debate

WASHINGTON - During the vice presidential debate Tuesday night, Indiana Gov. Mike Pence (R) offered a policy proposal for addressing the civil war in Syria that differed from comments Donald Trump has made regarding Syria and the fight against the Islamic State.

"If Russia chooses to be involved — and continue, I should say, to be involved — in this barbaric attack on civilians in Aleppo, the United States of America should be prepared to use military force to strike mil-



itary targets of the Assad regime to prevent them from this humanitarian crisis that is taking place in

Aleppo," Pence said during the debate. He and Sen. Tim Kaine (D-VA) also both support-

ed creating safe zones in northern Syria. Pence's comments about ... (More on P4)...(21)

AU Summit to be Held in Togo to Discuss Maritime Security

LOME - An African Union (AU) summit will be held next week in Lome, capital of Togo, to tackle problems facing the African continent, the Togolese foreign minister announced.

The summit, to be held on Oct. 10-15, aims to adopt a common strategy for the fight against maritime insecurity in Africa, illegal fishery and for blue economy development on the continent.

It is expected to draw 25 to 30 heads of state and government among more than 3,000 delegates, said Togolese Minister of Foreign Affairs Robert Dussey on Monday.

Security measures have been stepped up in the capital Lome as "roughly 3,000 police officers will be mobilized," a security and civil defense official said.

"Leisure places or strategic areas are placed under control," the Security and Civil Protection Minister Colonel Damehame Yark said. No effort has been spared to ensure the security of delegations to the AU, said Yark. (Xinhua)

Former Senior Kremlin Official Elected Russian Duma Speaker

MOSCOW - Vyacheslav Volodin, former first deputy chief of staff of the Russian Presidential Administration, was elected on Wednesday chairman of the State Duma, or the lower house of parliament.

Volodin, 51, represents the ruling United Russia Party, which won 343 of 450 seats in parliament in September's Duma elections. Also on Wednesday, Volodin's predecessor



in the Duma, Sergei Naryshkin, assumed the new post as director of Russia's Foreign Intelligence Service.

Earlier on Wednesday, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a

decree appointing Sergei Kiriyenko, former head of the state Rosatom nuclear energy corporation, as first deputy head of the Kremlin Administration. (Xinhua)

Iran Warns Saudi Navy to Stay Away From its Waters during Exercises

TEHRAN - Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said Wednesday that all military vessels partaking in Saudi Arabia's ongoing wargames in the Persian Gulf, the Gulf of Oman and the Strait of Hormuz, should keep off from Iranian waters.

In a statement, the IRGC warned that any act of transgression into Iran's territorial waters shall be met with an immediate and proper response, Press TV reported.

IRGC considers the ongoing wargames, attended by Saudi and non-Saudi naval vessels, as an evident attempt to foment tensions and violate sustainable securi-

ty in the Persian Gulf, the statement was cited as reading.

Therefore, all military vessels involved in the maneuvers should not approach Iran's territorial waters and not even cruise in international waters that are in the vicinity of Iran's territorial waters, it said. Iran's navy and the IRGC's naval forces are in full combat readiness to safeguard sustainable security in the Persian Gulf, the Strait of Hormuz and the Sea of Oman and shall respond promptly and proportionately to any potential acts which might undermine peace and security in these waters, the statement added. (Xinhua)

U.S.-Led Coalition Airstrike in Iraq Kills 18 Pro-Government Fighters

MOSUL, Iraq - U.S.-led coalition warplanes mistakenly struck pro-government fighters at a village in south of the city of Mosul, the last major Islamic State (IS) stronghold in Iraq, leaving 18 fighters killed and five others wounded, a provincial security source said on Wednesday.

The incident occurred on early Wednesday when the warplanes bombarded IS positions in the village of Haj Ali near the newly-freed town of Qayyara, some 550 km south of Mosul, but the airstrike mistakenly bombed the

positions of the anti-IS paramilitary Sunni tribal fighters, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The security forces launched a probe into the incident, while the troops and rescue teams are still looking for more bodies under debris of the destroyed posts, the source said.

The incident came as the Iraqi security forces and allied U.S.-led coalition forces are preparing for a major offensive to liberate Mosul, the capital of Iraq's northern province of Nineveh ... (More on P4)...(22)

Ukraine May Open Farmland Market only after Consultation with Landowners: PM

KIEV - Ukraine may open its farmland market only after consultations with landowners, Prime Minister Volodymyr Groysman said on Wednesday.

"There would be no decision on the establishment of the land market without extensive consultations regarding the model of the market," Groysman told a cabinet meeting. Even if the parliament cancels a ban on the farmland sales, it would not mean

that the Ukrainian land plots can be traded immediately, he stressed. Last month, the Ukrainian Agriculture Ministry said it had prepared a draft law on agricultural reform, envisaging lifting the moratorium on land sales. The legislation would be submitted to parliament after the government's approval.

The liberalization of the land market is a deeply ... (More on P4)...(23)

Neighbor News

China Continues Leading the World in Gold Production, Consumption

BEIJING - China is set to continue to lead the world in production and consumption of gold, Song Xin, head of the China Gold Association (CGA) said.

China produced 516 tonnes of gold in 2015, up 0.6 percent from 2014, more than any other country.

Increasing demand for gold jewelry and bars made the country consumed 986 tonnes of the precious metal in 2015, up 3.7 percent, also the highest in the world.

Till the end of 2015, China had been the world's leading gold producer for nine years and consumer for three.

For the first half of 2016, China produced 229 tonnes of gold and consumed 529 tonnes, the CGA data showed.

In April this year, China launched a yuan-denominated Shanghai gold benchmark price, a move which Song said showed China's increasing sway in the global gold market. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Concerned about New US Terrorism Act

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Wednesday expressed concern with the overriding of U.S. President Barack Obama's veto of a bill allowing families of the victims of the Sept. 11 attacks to sue the government of Saudi Arabia.

Last week's vote handed Obama the first veto override during his nearly eight-year presidency, dealing a blow to the White House and highlighting the administration's waning sway over Congress during Obama's last months in office.

The bill, named Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act (JASTA), now becomes law despite the fierce opposition from the Obama Administration.

Many lawmakers are reluctant to oppose a bill supported by families of the Sept. 11 attacks victims, as the election is just over a month away.

"We have noted with concern the overturning of the U.S. Presidential veto on JASTA, a law passed by U.S. Congress aimed at targeting sovereign states," the Pakistani Foreign Ministry said.

"Many countries across Europe and in the Middle East have also expressed similar concern over JASTA," a statement said.

The U.S. House of Representatives voted 348-77 to override the veto issued by Obama last week, hours after the Senate voted in favor of the override. (Xinhua)

Iran Denies Claims of Arming Yemeni Houthi Militants

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Wednesday dismissed U.S. allegations that a missile recently used by Yemen's Shiite Houthi militants to target a United Arab Emirates (UAE) vessel was from Iran.

Washington should avoid accusing others which aims at diverting attentions from their own history of supplying the arms to the countries which have invaded Yemen, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying by Press TV.

Presently, U.S. planes and weapons are being used by a Saudi-led coalition to kill thousands

of innocent people and destroy hospitals and schools in Yemen, said Qasemi.

On Saturday, the vessel, an Australian-built high-speed logistics catamaran under lease to the UAE military, was attacked by Houthi fighters near the Bab al-Mandab strait off Yemen's southern coast.

Followingly, U.S. Navy dispatched three warships near the southern coast of Yemen accusing Iran of supplying the Houthis with the "shoulder-fired rockets" that nearly destroyed the UAE ship.

In March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition started ... (More on P4)...(24)

Turkmenistan Hosts Discussions on Aarhus Convention

ASHGABAT - The Aarhus Convention, a UN document on access to environmental information, public participation in decision-making and access to justice in environmental matters, was the focus of an OSCE-supported seminar in Turkmenbashi, Turkmenistan, said the OSCE in a message.

Twenty five representatives of local authorities, commercial organizations, civil society and media attended the event. Discussions focused on administrative liability in the area of environmental protection, the importance of awareness-raising about air pollution and activities of the Caspian Environmental Control Service of the State Committee of Turkmenistan for Nature Protec-

tion and Land Resources (SCINPLR) in the area of implementation of environmental legislation.

"The implementation of the Aarhus Convention is a multi-step process which requires a systematic approach, including strengthening knowledge and understanding among officials at all levels of government of their respective obligations and responsibilities within the Convention," said Natalya Drozd, head of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat.

The seminar was organized by the Aarhus Centre of Turkmenistan Project, launched in 2012 by the Tebigy Kuwvat public organization, with the support of the OSCE Center in Ashgabat, and in cooperation with the SCINPLR. (Trend)