

UN Chief Appeals for Global Solidarity in Tackling Migrant Crisis

ROME - United Nations (UN) Secretary General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday praised Italy for its efforts in hosting and rescuing thousands of refugees and migrants, and appealed for global solidarity in tackling migrant crisis. Ban made his remarks after meeting with Italian President Sergio Mattarella here. The outgoing UN secretary general held talks also with president of the Upper House Pietro Grasso, and of the Lower House Laura Boldrini. Such meetings focused on major international issues, including the war in Syria, the Libyan situation, and the mi-



grant crisis, according to an official statement. "I commend the generosity of the Italian people and government in hosting and rescuing so many human beings, who are risking their lives on the high seas in search of a better life," Ban told reporters after talks. "Italy should not be left alone. We need global solidarity to face this unprecedented crisis," he added. The UN chief also praised the support Italy has been providing to the UN blue-helmet peace operations around the world, in terms of both troops and logistics. (Xinhua)

Russia Warns of Possible Downing of U.S. Missiles in Syria

MOSCOW - The Russian Defense Ministry warned Thursday that it could shoot down U.S. missiles in Syria if they were used against the Syrian government forces. "One should really be aware that crews of Russian air defense systems are unlikely to have time to clarify via a direct line the accurate flight programs of missiles and who their carriers belong to," the ministry's spokesman Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

Earlier in the day, the U.S. media reported that Washington is considering plans to launch air strikes against the Syrian government army. Konashenkov said that the Syrian army now have effective Russian-made S-200, Buk and other air defense missile systems, while the Russian forces have deployed in Syria the advanced S-400 and S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems, "the range of which may come as a surprise to any... (More on P4)...(21)

Russian, French FMs Discuss UNSC Draft Resolution on Syria

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov discussed here Thursday with his French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault a Paris-sponsored United Nations Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution on Syria. At a briefing after their talks, Lavrov said Russia was ready to work on the draft based on the fundamental approaches in the Russia-U.S. ceasefire agreement in Syria reached in September. Ayrault said their talks

about the resolution were "constructive," but he also admitted that there were still obstacles to be removed for its adoption. The UNSC was expected to discuss the resolution on Thursday, according to the Security Council President for October Vitaly Churkin. Lavrov hoped that Moscow's amendments and ideas would be taken into account at the United Na-



tions. The United States announced on Monday it suspended talks with Russia on the ceasefire in Syria, accusing Moscow of violating their truce accord... (More on P4)...(22)

Rising Moves Detected in DPRK's Missile Launch Site: S. Korea

SEOUL - Rising moves of personnel and vehicles have been detected in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s main rocket launch site, indicating preparations for a long-range missile launch in the near future, Yonhap news agency reported on Friday. A senior South Korean government official was quoted as saying the moves in the DPRK's Tongchan-ri missile base have remarkably increased recently, noting that strategic provocations, includ-

ing a long-range missile launch, seemed to have been prepared. South Korea's military has estimated that Pyongyang could conduct another provocation at or around Oct. 10 to mark the 71st anniversary of the foundation day of the ruling Workers' Party of Korea (WPK). On Sept. 20, the military said the DPRK conducted a ground test of a new rocket engine that could be used for a long-range missile. It believed that Pyongyang may have enhanced the jet... (More on P4)...(23)

Antonio Guterres Selected to be next UN Secretary-General

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Thursday unanimously decided to recommend Antonio Guterres to head the United Nations for the next five years, starting from Jan. 1, 2017. The 15-nation council has delivered its decision to the UN General Assembly to formally appoint Guterres as the ninth secretary-general of the United Nations. Under the UN Charter, the Secretary-General shall be appointed by the General Assembly upon the rec-

ommendation of the Security Council. In practice, the Security Council will make the final choice and send a single candidate to the General Assembly for approval. After the Security Council's formal announcement, Guterres expressed



his gratitude by making a statement at Portugal's capital Lisbon, while saying he felt humility "to serve those most vulnerable" suffering from conflicts, poverty and injustices... (More on P4)...(24)

Around 200 Vietnamese Killed by Cancer Each Day: Statistics

HANOI - Around 200 Vietnamese people are killed by cancer each day and over 70,000 deaths are caused by cancer each year in Vietnam. The statistics were released at an ongoing national seminar on prevention and combating cancer held in Vietnam's capital Hanoi. The two-day seminar drew participation of over 1,000 cancer-specialized doctors, experts, and policy-makers. According to Tran Van Thuan, director of Vietnam's leading K Hospital, over 70 percent of cancer patients in Vietnam go to hospital at late stages, causing serious impact on the rate of successful treatment.

"In the world, some 80 percent of cancer patients are considered 'cured' of the disease if they live for at least five years more since detecting. In Vietnam, the rate stands low at 33 percent among male patients and 40 percent among female," said Thuan. According to French experts at the seminar, by 2020, Vietnam will have some 189,000 cancer cases each year, nearly three times higher than that of 70,000 cases in 2010. (Xinhua)

Syrian Army Captures Key Hilltop in Aleppo City

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army on Friday recaptured a strategic hilltop, overlooking rebel-held districts in the northern city of Aleppo, as part of a broad offensive the army waged recently to flush the rebels out of Aleppo, state news agency SANA reported. Capturing the Sheikh Saeed hill has enabled the Syrian army to overlook the rebel-held districts of Amiriyeh and Sukariyeh in the Cement Factory in eastern Aleppo, according



to the report. The fresh advance is the latest in a series of victories the Syrian army has recently achieved in Aleppo, as part of the declared offensive to dislodge the insurgents from the rebel-held

eastern part of Aleppo. A day earlier SANA said the military forces captured areas in the rebel-held Bustan al-Basha neighborhood, and al-Sakhour area. The... (More on P4)...(25)

Germany Open to Considering Sanctions on Russia over Syria

The German government is open to considering economic sanctions on Russia as a way to quell the Syria conflict, a spokesman for German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Friday, reflecting rising frustration in Europe with Moscow's behavior in the war. "We can understand that all options are being considered," spokesman, Steffen Seibert said at a news conference, in response to a question about whether Germany would support economic sanctions to pressure Moscow over Syria. "We believe that, especially, Russia and Iran have the responsibility to do all they can and to use their influence on the As-

sad regime to bring an end to this escalation of violence and the suffering of the people." "It would be a scandal to leave most serious war crimes without consequences and sanctions," Norbert Röttgen, chairman of the foreign affairs committee in German parliament and a member of Ms. Merkel's Christian Democrats, said in comments published by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung newspaper Friday. European economic sanctions against Moscow, he went on, "would be decisive and are the only thing that could practically be done, but [European Union] governments are afraid of this step for purely domestic political reasons." (Nasdaq)

Turkey Says Ready to Support Operation against IS in Mosul

ANKARA - Turkey on Friday vowed to support a planned offensive against the Islamic State (IS) group in the Iraqi city of Mosul. "We are ready to give all kinds of support in the fight against Daesh (IS) in Mosul," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said at a joint press conference with his Spanish counterpart Jose Manuel Garcia-Margallo. He said that involving Shiite militias in the operation will not bring peace. "On the contrary, it will increase problems."

However, he added that Turkey-trained Sunni forces should be involved in the offensive while the coalition forces can give consultation. Ankara and Baghdad are in row of words over Turkish troops deployed in Bashiqah region of northern Iraq. The troops train local Sunni Arabs and Kurdish forces for fight against the IS. The assault to retake Mosul, which has been in the hands of IS since 2014, is expected to take place in the coming weeks. (Xinhua)

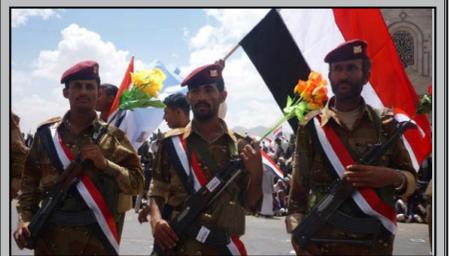
DPRK Blasts U.S. for Stepping Up Pressure, Sanctions

PYONGYANG - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Thursday blasted U.S. President Barack Obama and his administration for stepping up pressure on and sanctions against it. A spokesman for the DPRK's foreign ministry said in a statement that the "racket" for sanctions against and pressure on the DPRK by the Obama administration "has reached

an extreme phase." The statement, carried by the official news agency KCNA, said the U.S. government is "making desperate efforts to isolate and stifle the DPRK by pressurizing other sovereign countries to sever relations with the DPRK or downgrade the level of ties with it." "This is nothing but the last-ditch efforts of those who are on a losing streak in... (More on P4)...(26)

Neighbor News

Iran Denies Meeting Held with Houthi Leaders in Yemen



TEHRAN - Iran denied a Saudi Arabia report that a Foreign Ministry official of the Islamic republic recently visited the Yemeni capital to talk with Iran-backed Houthi fighters, Press TV reported on Friday. On Thursday, Saudi daily Al Watan alleged that Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari recently travelled to Sana'a for talks with leaders of Shiite Yemeni Houthi

group. "Fabrication of such news by Saudi media takes place while the route to Sana'a has been closed for several months and Saudi Arabia does not even allow Yemeni nationals to travel" to the city, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi was quoted as saying. Last month, a letter by Saudi Arabia to the UN Security Council also alleged that Iran was... (More on P4)...(27)

Pakistan's PSX Extends Losses Amid Range-Bound Trade

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) fell for second straight day on Friday as investors opted for booking profits amid range-bound trade but the key index managed to keep the psychological figure of 41,200 points. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark KSE 100-Index declined by 0.13 percent or 51.69 points to 41,200.48 points on Friday when compared with 41,252.17 points reported on Thursday. During the week that ended on Oct. 7, the key index surged by 658.67 as three out of five trading sessions ended in green zone. The KSE All-Share Index gained 0.09 percent or 26.50 points to 28,275.07 points, the KSE 30-Index dipped

by 0.31 percent or 69.93 points to 22,663.91 points, the KMI 30-Index slumped by 0.45 percent or 317.68 points to 69,901.56 points, whereas the Islamic All-Share Index slipped by 0.41 percent or 81.11 points to 19,513.30 points. During Friday's trading session, the main index moved in a narrow range of 249.88 points as it touched an intraday high of 41,373.42 points as against an intraday low of 41,123.54 points. Interest was seen in Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited (SNGPL) as the Oil and Gas Regulatory Authority (OGRA) estimated lower than expected UFG disallowance of 7 billion rupees for Financial Year 2016-17 (FY17). The stock ended 4 percent higher. (Xinhua)

EBRD to Extend Loan to Meat Producer in Turkmenistan

BAKU - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is stepping up its support for private small and medium-sized enterprises in Turkmenistan with funding to Taze Ay, a processed meat producer based in the southern city of Mary, the bank reported on Friday. The EBRD, in cooperation with the Taiwan International Cooperation and Development Fund, will extend \$800,000 to Taze Ay, of which the bank will provide \$560,000 and the fund the remaining \$240,000. The funding will enable Taze Ay to expand its production capacity by about 25 percent. Taze

Ay has been supported by the EBRD since 2013, receiving financing for new production lines and distribution network expansion along with business advice on quality, food safety and company management from the EBRD's Advice for Agribusiness team. "Supporting local entrepreneurs which strive to satisfy local demand with quality products is one of our priorities in Turkmenistan," Engin Goksu, EBRD Head of Office in Turkmenistan said. To date, the EBRD has invested over \$260 million in Turkmenistan, mainly in privately owned manufacturing companies. (Monitoring Desk)

Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan Developing Agreement in Customs Control Field

ASTANA - Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are developing an agreement on mutual recognition of the customs control forms, said Yerally Nuraliyev, deputy head of department of customs control of the state revenues committee of the Ministry of Finance. "The agreement with Uzbekistan on mutual recognition of customs

control forms is being developed," said Ye. Nuraliyev at the forum entitled "Facilitation of customs procedures: protection of copy rights". In his words, the agreements are being developed with Azerbaijan, Georgia and Turkey for share of information between the customs bodies. (KazTag)