

EU to Address Syria's Political Future with Regional Players

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) will start talks with key actors in the region on the post-conflict phase in Syria, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said on Monday following the discussion on Syria at the Foreign Affairs Council.

"We have had a very good discussion with the UN Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura. We have decided that the EU and the UN will work more together to push the humanitarian aid into Aleppo," she told media.

EU foreign ministers decided to start talks on Syria's political future in particular with



Turkey, Iran, Saudi Arabia and other key regional players "to try and create a political space for some common ground on the future of the country," said Mogherini. She stressed it could be helpful in this moment to start reflecting on the post-conflict institutional settings for Syria. Mogherini also called on Russia and the Syrian government to "stop the bombing on Aleppo and to continue talks with the United States and other key players on the ground to avoid the humanitarian catastrophe in the city." According to the conclusion ... (More on P4)...(17)

Trump Invites Mother of Benghazi Victim to Next Debate

WASHINGTON - Donald Trump invited the mother of a Benghazi victim to sit in a prominent position at the next debate. Pat Smith, the mother of a State Department II consultant who was killed in the 2012 Benghazi terrorist attacks, is planning to accept the Republican nominee's invitation to the debate, which will be held Wednesday night in Las Vegas. During a Monday interview at her home in San Diego, Smith told Yahoo News that the Trump campaign reached out to

her earlier that day and invited her to the debate. The Trump campaign confirmed the invitation. "I think I'm going to be in the front row. But I'm not sure," said Smith. Smith spoke in July at the Republican National Convention, where she delivered an emotional speech laying blame for her son's death squarely at the feet of Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton. "I blame Hillary Clinton personally for the death of my son," Smith said then. "Personally." In her ... (More on P4)...(18)

NATO Says Committed to Providing Capacity-Building for Iraq

BRUSSELS - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday welcomed Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari at the NATO Headquarters, committing the Alliance's support to Iraq. Stoltenberg reiterated NATO's commitment to provide in-country training and capacity-building for Iraq, as agreed by Allies at the Warsaw Summit, according to a NATO statement.

NATO will provide a training effort inside Iraq in January 2017, which would build on the Alliance's existing training course to Iraqi officers in Jordan. During his visit, Al-Jaafari also participated in a meeting of the North Atlantic Council. He addressed domestic and regional security challenges, including progress in the fight against the Islamic State (IS).



Stoltenberg highlighted NATO's efforts to step up support for the U.S.-led coalition's fight, noting that NATO AWACS aircraft will soon be flying to support the anti-IS coalition. (Xinhua)

Kremlin Confirms Putin's Participation in Meeting over Ukraine

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin will take part in a meeting with leaders of France, Germany and Ukraine in the so-called Normandy format in Berlin on Wednesday, the Kremlin confirmed Tuesday. "The president will travel to Berlin tomorrow, where he will take part not in a one-day, but an evening working visit, and he will hold talks with (Ger-

man Chancellor Angela) Merkel, (French President Francois) Hollande, and (Ukrainian President Petro) Poroshenko," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. The Kremlin has earlier repeatedly declined to confirm Putin's participation in the meeting on the crisis in Ukraine. Last week, the Russian leader canceled a visit to France also scheduled for Wednesday. (Xinhua)

Russia, U.S. Military Experts to Meet over Syria: Media

MOSCOW - Russian and U.S. military experts will meet in Geneva Wednesday to discuss the separation of Syrian opposition from terrorist groups, the Interfax news agency on Tuesday cited Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov as saying. "Indeed, an agreement was reached in Lausanne that military experts would try to do it as far as eastern Aleppo is concerned. Such a meeting will start in Geneva tomorrow. Let's see what results it will have," Lavrov said. On Saturday, Lavrov and

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry met in the Swiss city of Lausanne for discussions of restarting the political process in Syria. They were joined by the foreign ministers of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Jordan and Qatar. The talks reportedly ended with no major breakthroughs in settling the five-year-long crisis in Syria. The Russian Foreign Ministry said earlier that



parties to the multilateral meeting reaffirmed their pledge to maintaining the integrity of the war-torn country, and promised to continue contacts. Russia has repeatedly stressed the need to separate the so-called moderate ... (More on P4)...(19)

Ultra-Nationalist 'War Camps' Train Russian Youths

MOSCOW - Deep in the woods on the outskirts of Moscow, a sudden burst of gunfire sends a flock of birds screeching into the sky. A dozen people dressed in military fatigues scale a crumbling, abandoned high-rise with Kalashnikovs strapped to their backs.

This is a "war camp" organized by the ultra-nationalist Eurasian Youth Union, known as ESM, the youth wing of the broader Eurasian movement. Such camps, which are on the rise in Russia, imitate a broader Kremlin policy of "patriotic education" that has seen a marked increase in government funding in recent years.

The ESM camps serve as breeding grounds for the volunteers who fought alongside Russia-backed separatists in eastern Ukraine and are now producing a new generation of trained fighters.

"We are in a state when NATO moves closer to our borders and today's youth needs to be trained in order to prevent those attacks," says ESM leader Anton Bryusov.

The nationalists see the West as their key enemy, but ... (More on P4)...(20)

Russia, Syria Halt Airstrikes against Aleppo: Russian DM

MOSCOW - Russian and Syrian air forces have halted airstrikes against Syria's Aleppo from 10 a.m. local time (0700 GMT) on Tuesday ahead of a humanitarian pause set for Thursday, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu said Tuesday.

"This will ensure the safety of exit of civilians via six corridors and to prepare the wounded in the eastern part of Aleppo for evacuation," Shoigu said. By the start of the hu-



manitarian pause Syrian troops will withdraw a certain distance, allowing the militants with their weapons to freely leave eastern Aleppo by two corridors, he added.

He also urged countries that have influence on the armed groups in the eastern part of Aleppo to persuade their leaders to cease hostilities and leave the ... (More on P4)...(21)

New Zealand Offers Aid to Iraqi Refugees as Battle for Mosul Deepens

WELLINGTON - The New Zealand government said on Tuesday that it would provide 1 million NZ dollars (718,600 U.S. dollars) to help refugees from the embattled Iraqi city of Mosul.

The funding to help meet the humanitarian needs of people affected by the battle to liberate Mosul from Islamic State insurgents would be provided through the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Foreign Minister Murray McCully said. New Zealand would also support the United Nations' work to coordinate the humanitarian response in Mosul, by funding an information management and mapping specialist to help track the flows

of internally displaced persons.

"The campaign to retake Mosul is a watershed moment in the fight against ISIL (Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant)," McCully said in a statement.

"Mosul is Iraq's second largest city and one of ISIL's remaining territorial strongholds. The campaign to liberate it from ISIL will not be easy, and in the worst case scenario could displace hundreds of thousands of civilians," he said.

New Zealand's funding will help IOM and its partners develop emergency sites to provide shelter and essential assistance to those who choose to move out of the city, he added. (Xinhua)

Up to 1 Mln People Could Flee Military Operations in Mosul: UN Agencies

GENEVA - While the situation in the Iraqi city of Mosul remains unpredictable, UN aid agencies warned Tuesday that up to 1 million people may be forced to flee Islamic State's (IS) last stronghold because of fighting. As in previous battles that freed the cities of Tikrit, Ramadi, Fallujah and others from IS militants, Iraqi forces are moving to gradually encircle the city which lies 400 km north of Baghdad after clearing militants from towns and

villages around it before entering Mosul's districts. In light of the situation, aid officials reminded that the fate of civilians needs to be closely monitored amid warnings that those trapped in the city could be used as human shields by IS fighters. International Organization for Migration's (IOM) chief of mission in Iraq, Thomas Weiss, said there have been reports of chemical weapons being used by IS, resulting in ... (More on P4)...(22)

France to Host Meeting on Iraq to Discuss Post-Mosul Offensive: FM

PARIS - France will host a ministerial-level meeting on Thursday to discuss the future of Mosul, the Islamic State's last Iraqi stronghold, after international coalition launched a major offensive to uproot the group, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault announced Tuesday.

"There is a need to anticipate, to prepare for the day after and the stabilization of Mosul after the military battle," Ayrault was quoted as saying by local media. "We must win the war but

also examine everything that can help to win peace. What will happen after? We must set up administration, and prepare stabilization," he added. Speaking to French diplomatic press, the French minister stressed that once IS is defeated, Iraqi authorities must develop a stabilization plan for Mosul and the region, protect civilians in the northern Iraqi city and provide humanitarian aid. The French top diplomat warned that a defeat in ... (More on P4)...(23)

Neighbor News

Iran Engages in Electronic Warfare in Ongoing Military Drill

TEHRAN - Iran's Air Force on Tuesday successfully conducted an electronic warfare in an ongoing military drill in the central province of Isfahan, Press TV reported. The Air Force used advanced communications systems and secure wireless or wire-connected network, Brig. Gen. Massoud Rouzkhosh, the spokesman for the maneuver, said on the second day of the drill codenamed Fada'eeyan-e Harime Velayat 6.

The use of deceptive jamming methods against mock enemy radars were among the electronic warfare tactics employed by Falcon 50 aircraft, he said. Interceptor F-14 aircraft conducted aerial surveillance and other

operations, while F-14 and MiG-29 fighters engaged in dogfights, he added.

On Monday, Iran commenced a three-day large-scale aerial drill, the purpose of which is showcasing the prowess of Iran's air force in protecting the country. "The drill showcase only a fraction of the Air Force's capability in preserving and defending Iran's skies," said Rouzkhosh.

The drill includes bombers, interceptors, reconnaissance planes, refueling and transport aircraft as well as unmanned aerial vehicles. According to the report, the drill also employs a wide range of projectiles, including smart bombs and laser-guided missiles. (Xinhua)

Baloch People are against Violence: Bizenjo

GWADAR - Pakistani Federal Minister for Ports and Shipping and president of the National Party Mir Hasil Khan Bizenjo has said that the Baloch are peaceful people and are against violence.

Speaking at a health conference here on Sunday, he said there was no room for violence in the traditions and norms of Balochistan.

He said the incidents of violence in Balochistan over the past few years had badly damaged society.

He stressed the need for making serious efforts for restoration of peace

to the province. Over 200 doctors and health experts from across the country attended the conference.

The federal minister said the Makran region was known for knowledge and wisdom of its people. He stressed the need for promoting education in the province to eradicate violence from the society.

Balochistan Health Minister Mir Rehmat Saleh Baloch said that Balochistan had been facing several challenges and the biggest one was the restoration of peace in the province. (Monitoring Desk)

EBRD Supports Private Sector in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) is increasing its support for private small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in Turkmenistan with a loan to a local event management and catering company, the EBRD said in a message Oct. 18.

Strengthening the private sector is the bank's priority in Turkmenistan and the \$850,000 loan provided to Gul Zaman private enterprise will support the expansion of the company into a new business segment.

Gul Zaman is currently Turkmenistan's leading event organizer and caterer and employs about 170 people. It has an ambitious plan to expand its small pastry baking operation

to an industrial-scale bakery which will produce bread, cakes and biscuits to high quality standards.

The EBRD funds will help Gul Zaman purchase the necessary equipment for expansion such as modern energy-efficient ovens and delivery vehicles, and also to open a new cafe and showroom in a central area of the country's capital Ashgabat.

"We are extremely pleased to continue to support the Turkmen private sector by providing not only long term financing, but also valuable technical expertise to further enhance local standards and increase competitiveness," said Engin Goksu, head of the EBRD office in Turkmenistan. (Trend)

Uzbekistan Proposes to Create Islamic Research Center

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan proposes to create an international Islamic research center in Samarkand under the auspices of studying the heritage of the Muslim world's scholars and thinkers, said the Acting President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at the 43rd session of the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers on Tuesday. He added that creation of such a center is one of the priorities of the Uzbek chairmanship in the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers.

Mirziyoyev reminded that such prominent Islamic figures as Muhammad al-Bukhari, At-Tirmidhi, Al-Biruni, al-Khwarizmi, al-Maturidi and others lived in the territory of Uzbekistan. Priorities of the Uzbek chairmanship in the OIC Council of Foreign Ministers also include development of intercultural and educational dialogue, scientific and technical, as well as trade and investment cooperation between the OIC member countries. (Trend)