

US Still Hopeful of Diplomatic Solution in Syria, Middle East: Kerry

MADRID - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday said the United States maintained hopes of a diplomatic solution to the ongoing conflict in Syria, and asked for "clarity" over the recent upsurge in violence between Israel and Palestinians. Kerry made the statements during a two-day visit to Spain, which saw him meet Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy and Spanish Foreign Minister Jose Manuel Garcia Margallo. The visit, his first to Spain as secretary of state, was to discuss "bilateral and international issues" such as the Transatlantic Trade and Investment



Partnership (TTIP) and the ongoing conflict in Syria. "I will be coming back in a few days and will meet with leaders from Russia, Turkey, Saudi Arabia and Jordan to work through real and tangible options

that could perhaps reignite a political process and bring about a political transition in Syria," said Kerry, who added Washington feels it has a responsibility to "help avoid the total destruction of Syria." Kerry also called for what he described as the "senseless" violence on the West Bank to end. The violence has increased over what Palestinians fear is Jewish encroachment on the al Al-Aqsa Mosque. Kerry assured that in conversations with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli leader said he "understood the need for status quo in the region." ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Kerry Says Need for Clarity to help end Israeli-Palestinian Violence

MADRID - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Monday Israeli and Palestinian leaders need to clarify the status of Jerusalem's al-Aqsa mosque compound to help end a spate of bloodshed and restore stability. Kerry, preparing for meetings with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in Germany and then with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Jordan's King Abdullah, likely in Amman, also rejected a proposal by France at the United Nations for an international observer presence at the holy site. Israel called in France's ambassador on Monday to make clear its opposition to the idea, a foreign ministry spokesperson said. "Israel understands the importance of the status quo and ... our objective is to make sure that everyone understands what that means," Kerry told a news conference in Madrid. The Palestinians' unrest, the most serious in years, has been stirred in part by anger over what they see as increased Jewish encroachment on the mosque compound, Islam's most sacred site outside Saudi Arabia and also revered by Jews as the location of two destroyed biblical Jewish temples. Netanyahu has said his government is committed to ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Britain Unveils new Counter-Extremism Measures

LONDON - British Prime Minister David Cameron on Monday unveiled new planned measures aimed at countering jihadist ideology and stopping young Britons travelling to Syria, challenging Muslim communities to "own" the problem. Key proposals in the plan include allowing parents to have passports removed from 16 and 17-year-olds, and barring those with terrorism or extremist convictions from working with children and vulnerable people. The new Counter-Extremism Strategy will also include a review of Britain's citizenship rules with a stronger focus on the "good character" consideration to filter out extremists from those applying to be citizens. "The fight against Islamist extremism is, I believe, one of the great struggles of our generation. In responding to this poisonous ideology, we face a choice," Cameron said Monday. "Do we close our eyes, put our kid gloves on and just hope that our values will somehow endure in the end? Or do we get out there and make the case for those values, defend them with all that we've got and resolve to win the battle of ideas all over again?" Police say they have foiled several jihadist attacks in Britain, while hundreds of Britons are believed to have travelled to Syria and Iraq to join the Islamic State group, raising concerns that not ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Turkish PM Says Drone Downed Recently Russian-Made

ISTANBUL - A drone shot down last week by Turkish fighter jets within the country's airspace was Russian-made, Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said on Monday. Speaking on Turkey's A Haber TV, Davutoglu said the drone may be an asset of the Syrian government headed by President Bashar al-Assad, or of the Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), or of other forces. The drone was downed and seized by the Turkish military last Friday near the border with Syria, and the move came after twice incursions into Turkish airspace by two Russian fighters on Oct. 3 and 4 strained Ankara-Moscow ties. Russia, which started air raids on Islamic State (IS) targets inside Syria ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Unity in Mideast will Eliminate Terrorism: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani urges a serious and organized fight against terrorism in the Middle East, through fostering unity and solidarity among all regional countries. In a meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil in Tehran on Sunday, the Iranian president described terrorism as a "tangible threat" to all regional nations. "If all regional governments and countries and those powers which are really interested in fighting terrorism join hands and cooperate with each other, it will be possible to finish off this scourge," Rouhani added. Stressing that all regional countries are affected by common woes, namely the "illegitimate" Israeli regime, foreign intervention in the critical Middle East's affairs and violence and terrorism, the Iranian president called on regional



states to stand up to the problems to send clear messages to the enemies of the region. Elsewhere in his remarks, the Iranian president also commended Lebanon's resistance against the Israeli regime and said the Islamic Republic supports the Arab country's solidarity, unity and territorial integrity. Rouhani also reaffirmed Iran's support for the anti-Israel resistance, saying the Islamic Republic will back

those countries which are "at the forefront of fighting against the Zionist regime (Israel) and terrorism." The Lebanese foreign minister said many regional powers, including Iran, have the great potentiality which could be used to fight terrorism. Bassil added that Israel and terrorists share interests, stressing, however, that the regime's policy of bullying will fail to bring about victory for the regime in any kind of battle. *(PressTV)*

New Zealand FM backs UN Ministerial Debate on Middle East

WELLINGTON - The New Zealand government on Monday welcomed a move by Spain for ministerial-level talks on the Middle East at the United Nations Security Council this week. New Zealand holds a temporary seat on the UN Security Council for 2015-2016 and Foreign Minister Murray McCully said he would travel to New York to take part in the open debate.

"As the current president of the Security Council, Spain has announced that the council's quarterly public debate on the Middle East will this month be at ministerial-level given the significance of recent



developments in the region," McCully said in a statement. "The current levels of violence in the Middle East, and the urgent need to get the Middle East Peace Process back on track, have given the regular open de-

bate greater urgency," he said. "New Zealand has long called for the Security Council to work in a cohesive way to address some of these issues and we welcome Spain's decision to elevate this debate to ministers. *(Xinhua)*

French Jet in 'Dangerous' Incident with Russian Aircraft: Moscow

MOSCOW - A French military jet came dangerously close to an aircraft carrying the speaker of the lower house of the Russian parliament as he flew through French airspace, Russia's foreign ministry said on Monday. The ministry said it had summoned the French ambassador in Moscow to protest over the incident, which happened earlier on Monday. It complained in a statement of "a dangerous proximity between a French air force jet in its national airspace and an airliner carrying a Russian parliamentary delegation." The ministry said the delegation, headed by parliamentary speaker Sergei Naryshkin, an ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, had been heading to Geneva, in Switzerland, to attend an international meeting of parliamentarians. "The ambassador was informed of Russia's deep concern over what happened. It was underlined that such actions by Paris undermine the possibility of using France as a venue for conducting international meetings and talks," the ministry said. Earlier this month, Putin traveled to Paris to take part in talks on the conflict in Ukraine along with French President Francois ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Belgium Pays Refugees to Free up Asylum Center Places : Reports



BRUSSELS - The Belgian government will begin offering refugees a 560 euro (634 U.S. dollars) incentive to leave asylum centers and seek accommodation elsewhere, local media reported on Monday. The payment is targeted at asylum seekers whose application is accepted and who

have friends or family in Belgium who can provide them with shelter, according to Flemish newspapers De Morgen and Het Laatste Nieuws. Under the current system, migrants in Belgium who are awarded refugee status can stay at an asylum center for up to two months. The new incentive will

provide meal vouchers totaling 560 euros if refugees agree to leave the center immediately after their application has been approved, instead of staying for the two months. The reports said the Belgian government hopes to free up 300 spaces in asylum centers as a result. *(Xinhua)*

Nieghbor News

Pakistan well Aware of Threats to its Nuclear Sites : US

WASHINGTON - "Pakistan has a professional and dedicated security force that understands the importance of nuclear security," says the US State Department. "We have confidence that the government of Pakistan is well aware of the range of potential threats to its nuclear arsenal," said a State Department spokesperson, Helena White. The statement, sent to Dawn in response to a query, indicates a recent lessening of concern in Washington about Pakistan's nuclear programme. The assurance also follows a series of reports in the mainstream US media that the United States is willing to offer a deal to

Pakistan, which would legitimise its nuclear programme, as a similar deal did for India. The proposed deal, according to the US media, would also be discussed in a meeting between Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and US President Barack Obama when the two leaders meet at the White House on Oct 22. The prime minister reaches Washington on Tuesday on a two-day official visit. Reports about the deal followed a claim that Pakistan has the world's fastest growing nuclear programme and is capable of making up to 200 nuclear devices by the year 2020. *(Agencies)*

Nuclear Deal on Iran Program to be Implemented this Year

VIENNA - Iran's nuclear negotiator Abbas Araqchi said on Monday he expected a deal with six world powers on shrinking Tehran's atomic program in exchange for sanctions relief to be implemented by year-end. "Hopefully before the end of this year certainly we would have the implementation day," Araqchi told reporters after meeting senior officials from the United States, Russia, China, Britain, Germany and France in Vienna.

The United States and the European Union took formal legal steps on Sunday that will lift sanctions once Iran meets certain conditions such as reducing the number of centrifuges used to enrich uranium, and its enriched

uranium stockpile. Germany's foreign minister said the EU sanctions were likely to remain in place at least until January. When asked whether Iran had started mothballing centrifuges, Araqchi said the process had not begun yet. "We need an order by the president to the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation to start the job. That would be done after some preparations that we still need to do in the coming days. So it would soon start," Araqchi said. Sunday's moves have no immediate effect but cement a process that began with the deal reached in July to end sanctions against Iran once it shrinks its nuclear program that the West ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

China to Promote International Cooperation in Marine Science

BEIJING - China will actively promote maritime scientific research and innovation as well as international cooperation to advance sustainable marine development, according to the State Oceanic Administration (SOA) on Monday. Chen Lianzeng, deputy director of the SOA, made the remarks at an annual meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization (PICES) held in Qingdao, a coastal city in east China's Shandong Province, on Monday. Chen said global research on ocean science and technology has entered a new stage featuring cross-discipli-

nary studies and international collaboration, adding that all countries should work jointly to protect marine environments and combat climate change. "The SOA will work on increasing intellectual and financial support to the study and research of various subjects, including polar science, the marine ecological response to climate change, and ocean acidification," said Chen. More than 500 marine scientists and researchers participated in the 24th annual meeting of PICES, which was themed "changes and sustainability of the ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Tajikistan's Honorary Consul in Krasnodar Included FMS's Public-Consultative Council

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's Honorary Consul in Krasnodar Krai, a federal subject of Russia located in the Southern Federal District, Nazhzi-bek Naghzi-bekov, has been included in the Public-Consultative Council of Russia's Federal Migration Service (FMS) office in Krasnodar Krai. According to the Tajik migration service agency's office in Russia, a decision on including Mr. Naghzi-bekov in the Council was made at a meeting of the Council that took place last week. We will recall that Naghzi-bekov was appointed Tajikistan's Honorary Consul in Krasnodar in November last year. Mr. Naghzi-bekov graduated from Tajik

Technical Institute and Adyge State University (Russia). He is married with three children. He is Director of the Pamir-Baikal Limited Liability Company. Some consuls are not career officials of the represented state at all; some are locally-engaged staff with the nationality of the sending country, and in smaller cities, or in cities that are very distant from full-time diplomatic missions, a foreign government which feels that some form of representation is nevertheless desirable may appoint a person who has not hitherto been part of their diplomatic service to fulfill this role. Such a consul may well combine the job ...*(More on P4)...(26)*