

Lavrov, Kerry Discuss Syrian Situation

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry discussed the situation in Syria's northern city of Aleppo over phone on Monday evening, said the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lavrov said the illegal armed insurgents occupying the eastern part of Aleppo attacked civilians who tried to escape from the embattled city. "It was their response to the humanitarian pause introduced by the Syrian authori-



ties," the ministry noted. Lavrov once again urged the United States to fulfill its commitment to separate the Washington-backed "moderate" opposition forces from terrorist groups. The two diplomats agreed that both sides should keep looking for ways to stabilize the situation in Aleppo. They also discussed other international issues, including the situation in Iraq and bilateral relations. (Xinhua)

British PM Urges Regional Leaders Not to Undermine Brexit

LONDON - Theresa May held her first joint talks Monday with the leaders of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland since becoming prime minister and told them it was vital not to "undermine" Britain's position during Brexit negotiations. But Nicola Sturgeon, first minister of Scotland and leader of the SNP, warned May that she is not "bluffing" over her promise to hold an independence referendum if Scotland's vote against Brexit is "not respected."

After behind-closed-doors talks at 10 Downing Street, Sturgeon said she was not prepared to see "Scotland driven off a hard Brexit cliff edge". Media reports described the meeting as acrimonious, with the leaders of Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland demanding to be



fully consulted on EU negotiations. The view put forward by Downing Street at the meeting was that the regional administrations must work with one voice to... (More on P4)... (18)

ASEAN Regional Business Council Launched in Vietnam

HANOI - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Regional Business Council (RBC), which was supported by 55 major companies, was launched by the World Economic Forum (WEF) here on Tuesday. The council's mandate is to promote public-private cooperation on the most pressing issues in the ASEAN, in the context of the fourth industrial revolution and its implication on the region, said a press release by WEF. The council will focus on

building infrastructure, promoting cross-border trade and investment in ASEAN, developing a digital economy, examining the future of jobs and industry in the region and championing the principles of inclusive growth. In the year ahead, the RBC is expected to launch a number of other initiatives including a strategic infrastructure programme that promotes blended finance. ASEAN has a large infrastructure ... (More on P4)... (19)

Migrant Protests Erupt in Greece over Poor Living Conditions

ATHENS - A two-year-old Syrian drowned on Sunday at a pool at the Myrsini reception center in western Greece, sparking a small protest, local authorities announced on Monday. Meanwhile, a fiercer protest by refugees and migrants was held inside the Moria hotspot on the island of Lesbos in the eastern Aegean over dire living conditions and long delays in the assessment of asylum bids. Under still unclear circumstances, the Syrian

boy lost his life on Sunday evening at the pool which was filled with water from the heavy rainfall of last week, despite efforts of volunteers to revive him before his transfer to a local hospital, Greek national news agency AMNA reported. About 200 refugees have been accommodated at Myrsini camp since the drowning incident, they protested the lack of a permanent doctor inside the... (More on P4)... (20)

Mosul Military Operation Forces 7,000 Iraqi People to Flee Their Homes: UN

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) said that more than 7,000 Iraqi people are internally displaced as a result of the Mosul military operation in Iraq, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said here Monday. "The situation is fluid and the numbers and patterns of displacement are fluctuating as the front lines move," Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. The majority of displaced people are sheltering in host communities; some

families move out of harm's way only for a short time and quickly return home once conditions allow, he said. "Regardless of displacement pattern, all families are reported to be in a vulnerable condition and need assistance." "Humanitarian partners continue to provide assistance wherever access allows," he said.



Partners provided assistance in Al Houd within 24 hours of its being retaken from Da'esh, also known as the Islamic State (IS), on Oct. 18, and in recent days have provided assistance packages in the newly retaken areas of Ibrahim Al... (More on P4)... (21)

Hollande Urges Vigilance over Jihadists Returning from Iraq

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday urged the US-led coalition backing the offensive against Islamic State jihadists in Mosul to prepare for the aftermath of the city's fall, including returning fighters. "The recapture is not an end in itself. We must already anticipate the consequences of the fall of Mosul," he told a meeting of coalition defence chiefs in Paris. US Defence Secretary Ashton Carter and ministers from 12 other countries attended the talks, which come a week after Iraqi forces backed by Kurdish fighters launched a major operation to retake Iraq's second-biggest city. "What is at stake is the political future of the city, the... (More on P4)... (22)

Spanish Multinational Denies Use of Syrian Refugees in Turkish Factories

MADRID - A spokesperson for the Spanish multinational textile company Inditex on Monday denied claims that Syrian refugees, including children and those without necessary work permits, work in factories belonging to its suppliers in Turkey. "Irregular Syrian refugees are not working for our providers and neither are children," the company told Spanish national TV network RTVE. "When we discover that there are refugees in the production line we help them to regularize their situation through the help of the local charity Refugee Support Center," said a company spokesperson. Inditex was founded by Amancio Ortega, the richest man in... (More on P4)... (23)

U.S. Marine Corps to Establish Temporary Presence of Some 330 Troops in Norway in 2017

OSLO - The U.S. Marine Corps (USMC) will establish a limited rotational force presence of about 330 Marines in central Norway beginning in January 2017, the Norwegian defence ministry said on Monday. The U.S. Marine Corps Rotational Force will be stationed at the Vaernes military base near the central city of Trondheim and its presence "will provide significantly enhanced opportunities for mutual exercises and improved interoperability," the ministry said in a statement. "The training and exercise activities will not be limited to Vaernes, but will take place also at other locations in Norway. A rotational presence of USMC will also facilitate development of the Marine Corps Prepositioning Program in Norway," Norway's defence minister Ine Erik-



sen Soreide was quoted as saying. "Following an initial evaluation during the trial-period in 2017, we will determine how to proceed with the USMC rotational presence beyond 2017," she said. (Xinhua)

Syrian Forces Capture New Area in Aleppo Amid Ongoing Military Showdown

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army on Monday captured a hilltop in the country's northern province of Aleppo, the latest in a series of victories achieved by the government forces in that strategic area, according to state news agency SANA. The Syrian forces captured the hilltop of Bazo in the southwestern countryside of Aleppo, after the intense airstrikes targeted the rebel positions there. The rebels of Jaish al-Fateh, or the Army of Conquest, fled the hilltop as a result of the government forces' shelling.

The capture of Bazo comes a day after the Syrian forces recaptured the Air Defense Battalion, near the residential area of 1070 Housing Project. It's part of the government forces' major offensive against the rebel positions in the countryside of Aleppo and the eastern part of the city. Aleppo, located near the borders with Turkey, is Syria's largest city and once an economic hub. It has been a focal point of clashes between the Syrian army and the rebels. (Xinhua)

Trump Rejects Polls as Inaccurate: 'all the Fair Polls Have US Winning'



WASHINGTON - Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump, who once boasted about his robust poll numbers, has turned to criticizing them as ineffective and "rigged" now that most show his rival, Democrat Hillary Clinton, with a commanding lead. On Monday, the real estate tycoon turned politician accused the Democratic Party of creating fake polls to undermine his bid for the White House but said that he'll win regardless. Trump made the dubious claim in a morning tweet -- the latest example of his pattern of messages of mistrust and skepticism aimed at all things that portray his campaign efforts in a negative light. He also tweeted, "Media in the tank for Clinton but Trump will win!" and "We are winning and the press is refusing to report it." Monday morning on "The Chad Adams Show," a conservative radio program in North Carolina, Trump said that pollsters focused on Democrats when asking about which candidate won the second and third debates. "All the fair polls have us winning. The oversampled polls, meaning they take it out of Democrats, that's a different story," he said. (Reuters)

Nieghbor News

LeJ Claims Attack on Pakistan Police Academy, 61 Dead

QUETTA, Pakistan - Militant group Islamic State said on Tuesday that fighters loyal to its movement attacked a police training college in Quetta in southwest Pakistan in a raid that officials said more than 61 people and wounded more than 110. Pakistani authorities have blamed another militant group, Lashkar-e-Jhangvi (LeJ), for the late-Monday siege, though the Islamic State claim included photographs of three alleged attackers. Hundreds of trainees were stationed at the college on the city outskirts when masked gunmen stormed in. Some cadets were taken hostage during the raid, which lasted

nearly five hours. Most of the dead were cadets. "They just barged in and started firing point-blank. We started screaming and running around in the barracks," one police cadet who survived told media. Other cadets spoke of jumping out of windows and covering under beds as the attackers hunted them down. Video footage from inside one of the barracks showed blackened walls and rows of charred beds. Islamic State's Amaq news agency published the claim of responsibility, saying three IS fighters "used machine guns and grenades, then blew up their explosive vests in the crowd." (Reuters)

Iran Ready to Help Pakistan Fight Terrorist Groups: FM Spokesman

TEHRAN - Iran has censured a terrorist attack on a police college in the Pakistani city of Quetta and expressed its readiness to help the country fight terrorist groups. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed the importance of cooperation in the fight against terrorist groups and expresses its readiness to help the Pakistani government in this regard," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Tuesday. He urged all countries to engage in a fundamental and serious campaign against the ominous phenomenon of terrorism. The Iranian spokesperson also offered his condolences to the Pakistani government and nation

and extended his sympathy to the bereaved families of the victims. At least 61 people were killed and more than 110 others wounded after militants attacked the police college in Quetta in the restive Pakistani province of Balochistan late on Monday. The Takfiri Daesh group on Tuesday claimed responsibility for the attack after authorities said the attackers belonged to a militant group affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban. It was one of the deadliest attacks on Pakistan's security forces in recent years, sparking a ferocious gunbattle with troops that lasted into early hours Tuesday. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan Completing Construction of Railway to Afghanistan

ASHGABAT - The construction of a new railway from the Turkmen town of Atamyrat to the Afghan settlement of Akina is under completion, the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper reported. "Turkmen builders are completing the construction of the Atamyrat-Ymamnazar section, constructing the railway through the Turkmen-Afghan border, as well as the railway through a small five-kilometer-area from the Turkmen border settlement of Ymamnazar to Akina," the article said. According to the plan, some 85 kilometers of the main railways of the section account for Turk-

menistan, the article said. "After the completion of the construction, the new railway must connect the Afghan section of Akina-Andkhoy with Atamyrat-Ymamnazar section in Turkmenistan and Panj district in Tajikistan," the newspaper reported. According to the article, two Gulistan and Ymamnazar railway stations, two large bridges over the Turkmen Karakum canal are being built as part of the project. The area is part of the transnational railway project along the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan route, the newspaper reported. (Trend)

UAE Seeks Stronger Relations with Tajikistan: Minister

DUSHANBE - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) takes a keen interest in promoting co-operation with Tajikistan in all spheres. Stating this, UAE Minister of Energy, Suhail bin Mohammed Faraj, while heading a high-level business and government delegation to the central Asian republic also added that the UAE supports the Tajik government's efforts in improving the country's infrastructure, Emirates News Agency (WAM) reports. President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, who

received the UAE minister and delegation, expressed hope that the visit would contribute towards stronger relations in all spheres. While noting that it is important to increase trade with the UAE, the president said there was a need to set up a joint Emirati-Tajik investment fund, a joint business council as well as a representative office for Emirati banks in his country. He also confirmed Tajikistan's participation at the World Expo 2020 in Dubai, UAE. Several meetings to discuss ways of... (More on P4)... (24)