

# Russian, German FMs Discuss Syrian Situation

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and his German counterpart Frank-Walter Steinmeier discussed the humanitarian situation in Syria's northern city of Aleppo and Syrian settlement over phone on Tuesday evening, said the Russian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Lavrov stressed the inadmissibility of the actions of "Nusra" terrorists and the extremists, who were blocking humanitarian supplies to the eastern part of Aleppo and obstructing medical evacuations from there. "Representatives of UN humanitarian agencies



should eliminate these obstacles, and cooperate with the countries which have an influence on the militants," the ministry noted. Lavrov said it was necessary for the United States to fulfill its commitment to separate the Washington-backed "moderate" opposition forces from terrorist groups, which is a key condition for the implementation of UN Security Council resolutions on the Syrian crisis. The ministers agreed to maintain the regular expert dialogue between the foreign ministries of Russia and Germany on all aspects of the Syrian settlement. (Xinhua)

## UN Chief Stresses Role of Women in Preventing Conflicts, Building Peace

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday underlined the role of women in preventing conflict and building and maintaining peace, saying that "in failing to include women and girls in peacemaking and peacebuilding processes, we are not only failing women and girls, we are failing the world." The urgent drive to bring women into their rightful place at the heart of building peace and security "must never stop," the secretary-general said while

addressing an open debate of the UN Security Council on women, peace and security. "Women have a vital role to play in preventing conflict and building and maintaining peace. But although this is now widely recognized, far too often, women are prevented from full participation in



peacemaking and peacebuilding," Ban said. "We are all suffering from the effects of this deficit," he said. Despite progress, the situation remains far from equitable, with many

## Iraqi Forces Advance Closer to New Positions Outside IS-Held Mosul

MOSUL - Iraqi security forces on Wednesday inched to the eastern fringes of the city of Mosul, and made progress on other routes around the city preparing for the major battle to storm the city and drive out the Islamic State (IS) militant group from its last major stronghold in Iraq, a security source said. On the 10th day of the offensive to free Iraq's northern province of Nineveh and its capital Mosul, the counter-terrorism commandos recaptured

5 km in east of Mosul, the nearest area reached by the troops to eastern edge of Mosul, a source from the Operations Command of Nineveh Liberation told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. "The latest advance the troops closer to Mosul's Gogjali district, which located on the main road to Mosul," the source said. In northeast of Mosul, the troops recaptured two military bases of al-Qal'at and Jenin, which were

## NATO Defense Ministers to Carry out Decisions Agreed at Warsaw Summit

BRUSSELS - NATO defense ministers will meet to "take stock of progress" in implementing decisions agreed at the Warsaw Summit and "map out the road ahead," said NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Tuesday. Previewing the ministerial meeting over the next two days, Stoltenberg said the heads of state and government of NATO took a series of decisions to boost deterrence and defense and to project stability in the

neighborhood at the July summit. An agreement of the summit was that NATO will have four multinational battalions in the eastern part of the alliance from early 2017 in a bid to enhance its presence in eastern Europe. "Tomorrow at our meeting, the nations which are responsible for leading the four different battalions -- Canada, Germany, United Kingdom and the United States -- will set out their

## Int'l Coalition Military Chiefs Vow to Intensify Fight Against IS

PARIS - Defense chiefs of international coalition against the Islamic State (IS) during a meeting here on Tuesday vowed to intensify the fight by putting on track a military offensive to retake Raqqa, IS bastion in Syria. "Daesh (the Islamic State) did not fall but it is weakened. Now, there is a need to increase our effort," said French Defense Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian. Le Drian added that operation to uproot IS insurgents in Iraq's second largest city "was held to our planning."

With the support of the U.S.-led coalition, Iraqi army and Kurdish Peshmerga launched a military offensive to eradicate IS fighters. They have retaken about 90 villages and towns around Mosul held by Daesh so far, according to media reports. After a meeting on Mosul operation, Le Drian said preparation was underway to conduct a similar



action in Syria without giving a schedule. In a joint press conference with his French counterpart, U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter expressed the coalition determination to contribute to the fall of IS in Raqqa.

## Assad's Allies Warn Turkey Against any Aleppo Advance

BEIRUT - Forces allied to President Bashar al-Assad in Syria warned Turkey on Wednesday against any advance towards their positions to the north and east of Aleppo, saying any such move would be met "decisively and with force". The field commander of the forces allied to Damascus made the comments during a tour of frontlines to the north of Aleppo in a written statement sent to Reuters by an official from the same alliance. The commander, who was not identified by name, nationality or affiliation, said any such advance would be seen as a breach of "the red lines". "We will not let anyone use the excuse of fighting..."

## Turkey Vows to Press Syria Offensive Despite Warning From Pro-Assad Forces

ANKARA/BEIRUT - Turkey said on Wednesday it will press its military offensive in Syria until Islamic State is driven from the town of al-Bab, despite a warning from forces allied to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and a helicopter attack on the rebels it backs. Turkey's incursion into Syria, launched two months ago to drive Islamic State militants from its border and prevent Kurdish fighters from gaining ground in their wake, has complicated an already messy battlefield in northern Syria. As the Turkey-backed rebels push south toward al-Bab, an Islamic State-held town 35 km (22 miles) northeast of Aleppo, they face confrontation...

## European Parliament Demands New EU Watchdog for Governance, Rights

STRASBOURG - Members of European Parliament (MEPs), meeting for a plenary session in Strasbourg, adopted a resolution on Tuesday calling for a new binding mechanism for the oversight of democracy, rule of law, and fundamental rights (DRF) in European Union (EU) members. The resolution, passed with 405 votes in favor, 171 against and 39 abstentions, calls for the European Commission to create a new DRF watchdog that would replace the "crisis-driven" functioning of recent years with an annual monitoring and reporting



system based on objective benchmarks and gradual approaches to remedying problems. During the Tuesday morning debate that preceded the adoption of the resolution, rapporteur Sophia in't Veld (the Netherlands / Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe group) described the need for the new watchdog. She said, "when a country wants to join the European Union, it has to meet the highest standards, but

## Migrants Quit French Calais "Jungle" in Second Day of Evacuation

PARIS - In the second day of the French effort to clear the sprawling migrant camp in the northern port city of Calais, 1,056 people quit the "jungle" to be resettled in centers across the country, French Interior Minister Bernard Cazeneuve said on Tuesday. "This morning, 1,056 people have been sheltered, with 800 having left Calais and 400 minors having been put in temporary centres in Calais," Cazeneuve told lawmakers. On Monday, 2,318 camp residents, representing more than a third of the total number of migrants, left Calais by bus to be relocated in reception centres across the country, the minister added. "The (evacuation) is a humanitarian operation which is complicated, difficult and requires the efforts of all," the French minister said. Britain had agreed to take charge of the minors who have relatives in the United Kingdom and to allocate 40 million euros (43.55 million U.S. dollars) to help clear the "jungle," he added.

representing more than a third of the total number of migrants, left Calais by bus to be relocated in reception centres across the country, the minister added. "The (evacuation) is a humanitarian operation which is complicated, difficult and requires the efforts of all," the French minister said. Britain had agreed to take charge of the minors who have relatives in the United Kingdom and to allocate 40 million euros (43.55 million U.S. dollars) to help clear the "jungle," he added.

## Putin Promises 'Confrontation' if Clinton Keeps up Russia Talk

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin has issued a veiled threat to Hillary Clinton, saying his country will engage in "confrontation" with the US if she continues to provoke the Motherland, according to a new report. Putin, 64, accused the Democratic presidential nominee of putting forth continued "harsh rhetoric" and "threats" against Russia for her own political gain, The Daily Star reported.

"Jeopardizing Russian-American relations in order to gain brownie points internally - I consider this to be harmful and counterproductive, Putin recently told reporters in Russia. "It's not funny anymore. If somebody out there wants confrontation. This is not our choice but this means that there will be problems," Putin warned. The former KGB spy added that Clinton was trying "to distract [American] voters from the country's problems" by unifying voters against two common enemies - Russia and Iran. And Putin made no secret over who he favors in the Nov. 8 election. "Mrs. Clinton has chosen to take up a very aggressive stance against our country, against Russia. Mr. Trump, on the other hand, calls for cooperation - at least when it comes to the international fight against terrorism," Putin said. "Naturally we welcome those who would like to cooperate with us. And we consider it wrong, that we always have to be in conflict with one another, creating existential threats for each other and for the whole world," Putin noted. (New York Post)

## Nieghbor News

### China a Key Player in Future Innovative Technologies: UBS

BEIJING - China is set to be a key player in future innovative technologies, according to international investment banking group UBS. The accumulation, utilization and application of big data will lead to the development of technological innovation in many fields, including artificial intelligence and financial technology, and bring significant investment opportunities, with China as a major player and market, said Amy Lo, Greater China head at UBS Wealth Management, on the sidelines of a technology CEO summit. The world will see the growth of the Internet user population rise by 2.5 billion in the next ten years, mostly driven by

increases in China, India and other Asian countries, according to Hyde Chen, director of the chief investment office at UBS Wealth Management. The rise of millennials will underpin the continuous growth of technological innovation, especially in China, which has about 415 million young people, who have increased spending power and a growing interest in services related to the sharing economy, augmented reality and artificial intelligence, Chen pointed out. Artificial intelligence is a key future trend that will impact the development of almost all sectors, according to Lo, who estimates the industry may

### Pakistani PM Hopes CPEC to Boost Regional Economic Activities

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif told a regional conference on Wednesday that his country is experiencing an economic revival, with greater momentum gained in energy, transport and infrastructure activities under the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). "CPEC will go beyond bilateral initiatives and lead to uplift economic development of whole region," Sharif said in his keynote address at the 15th meeting of the Central Asia Regional Economic Cooperation (CAREC) held in Islamabad. More than 200 participants from 10 member countries, namely Afghanistan, Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Pakistan, Tajikistan,

Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and multilateral development partners are attending the events. The two-day conference has been organized by Pakistan's Economic Affairs Division in collaboration with the Asian Development Bank (ADB). "I am confident that besides Pakistan, the benefits of CPEC would be multiplied for the CAREC countries as well with the cooperation and integration of member countries," said the prime minister. "Pakistan is committed to promote economic and social development through regional cooperation," he said, adding that his country firmly believes that through regional cooperation much better results can be achieved in fight against poverty. (Xinhua)

### Turkmenistan, China Mull Co-Op in Trade, Economy, Energy

ASHGABAT - Turkmen Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov and China's newly appointed ambassador Sun Weidong mull the Turkmenistan-China cooperation in trade, economy and energy in a meeting in Ashgabat. They also touched upon transportation, communication, industry, agriculture and high technologies, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message. During the meeting, the sides noted the two countries' commitment to development of cooperation in the mentioned areas. They also noted the high level of political cooperation, which is based on efforts of the two countries' presidents. The Chinese diplomat said he will do his best in order to strengthen the strategic partnership. Trade turnover between Turkmenistan and China amounted to about \$2.43 billion in H1 2016. Main trade operations are related to deliveries of Turkmen gas to China. (Trend)

### Population Increases in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - The permanent population has increased by 401,800 people (1.3 percent) since early 2016 and amounted to over 31.977 million people in Uzbekistan, the Uzbek State Statistics Committee said in a report. Some 50.6 percent of the total population accounts for towns, while 49.4 percent - for the countryside, the report said. According to the report, some 532,400 children were born in Uzbekistan in January - September 2016. The birth rate is 22.4 per 1,000 people in 2016 compared to 22.8 per 1,000 people in 2015. According to the report,

some 108,900 deaths have been registered since early 2016. The mortality rate is 4.6 per 1,000 people. Some 106,500 migrants arrived in Uzbekistan, while 128,200 people left the country in January - September 2016, the report said. According to the report, the balance of migration is minus 21,700 people compared to minus 23,100 people in 2015. The number of people engaged to work in the economy reached almost 13.3 million people in Uzbekistan in January - September, which is 1.8 percent more than in the same period of 2015, the report said. (Trend)