

Iran President Calls on Europe to 'Help' Refugees

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has called on European governments to fulfill their humanitarian duty concerning tens of thousands of refugees who are fleeing their crisis-hit countries. President Rouhani made the remarks in a meeting with new Hungarian ambassador to Tehran, Yanosh Kwach, on Sunday, saying dealing with the refugee crisis is a "great humanitarian mission" assigned to the world and especially Europe. "It is urgent that governments and countries help these refugees," Rouhani said. The Iranian president welcomed the move by



some European countries to take in refugees, saying, "We are happy that some

European countries have adopted positive stances to save refugees and hope

that all of Europe and the countries that have not joined this process" would

follow suit. Rouhani said the current refugee crisis stems from the "threat of

violence-seeking extremist groups and terrorism." "Terrorism has sparked intimidation and fear in the regional countries and [resulted in] the displacement of innocent people," he said. Rouhani expressed hope that through "determination and collective cooperation," the entire world would see lasting stability and security. Over the past few days, thousands of asylum seekers have left Hungary, where they had been stuck for days, for Austria and Germany after Berlin and Vienna officials voiced their readiness to receive them. (PressTV)

Britain Reported to Take 15,000 Refugees from Syria

LONDON - Britain is reported to take 15,000 refugees from Syria and is considering military action against ISIS militants within one month, reported The Sunday Times on Sunday.

The newspaper said by citing senior source from British government that the No. 10 of Downing Street had once discussing a figure as high as 20,000, but Prime Minister David Cameron's "current thinking" will see around 15,000 people in refugee camps on the Syrian border resettled in Britain. "Until now it has been suggested Britain would



take between 4,000 and 10,000 refugees. But one senior official said 10,000 was now the 'minimum not the maximum'," noted The Sunday Times. And among the reported

four-point plan on Britain's efforts in alleviating the humanitarian crisis, Britain is considering launching a military and intelligence offensive against the people traffick-

ers, diverting foreign aid to the crisis as part of the government spending review, as well as persuading Members of Parliament to back airstrikes in ... (More on P4)... (24)

Australian PM Promises to take in more Refugees from Syria

CANBERRA - Australia is prepared to take in more refugee from Syria and Minister for Immigration Peter Dutton will travel to Geneva to discuss with United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) for details, Prime Minister Tony Abbott said on Sunday. Abbott said he was moved by the image of three-year-old Aylan Kurdi, whose body was washed up on a Turkish beach. "We are disposed to take more people from that troubled region under our refugee humanitarian program and we are open to providing

more financial assistance," the prime minister told a press conference at the parliament. Abbott refused to give the exact number, saying that Australia will increase the percentage of refugees from Syria but will stay with the original UNHCR overtake quota. The prime minister said Australia has settled more than 4,400 refugees in the last financial year of 2014-15, accounting for 30 percent of the 13,750 places under the Humanitarian Program. Australian has also contributed 155 mil... (More on P4)... (25)

Russia Denies U.S. Charges on Escalation of Conflict in Syria

WASHINGTON - Russia's Foreign Ministry on Saturday shunned concerns of the United States about an alleged Russian military build-up in Syria, which U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said could lead to escalation of conflict in the war-torn country.

Kerry made his views known to his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov during a telephone conversation Saturday, one day after Russian President Vladimir Putin denied his country's involvement in military operations against the Islamic State (IS) group in Syria.

"We are looking at various options but so far what you are talking about (Russia sending troops into Syria) is not on the agenda," Putin said Friday. Russia's Foreign Ministry said Saturday's telephone call was made at Kerry's initiative, without mentioning the United States' concerns about a possible

Russian military build-up.

It said the two men discussed "different aspects of the situation in Syria and its environs, as well as the objectives of the fight against the IS and other terrorist groups," highlighting "cooperation" between Moscow and Washington in "supporting U.N. efforts aimed at launching a political process in Syria."

Israeli news outlet Ynet reported Monday, citing anonymous Western officials, that Russia was sending fighter jets to Syria to conduct airstrikes against Islamic State positions. According to a statement by the U.S. Department of State, Kerry "made clear that if such reports were accurate, these actions could further escalate the conflict, lead to greater loss of innocent life, increase refugee flows and risk confrontation with the anti-ISIL (IS) Coalition operating in Syria." (Xinhua)

India Successfully Positions Latest Communication Satellite GSAT-6 in Orbital Slot

NEW DELHI - India successfully positioned its latest communication satellite GSAT-6 in its orbital slot on Sunday, more than 10 days after launching it into space.

"GSAT-6 has been successfully positioned in its orbital slot of 83 Deg E and collocated with INSAT 4A, GSAT 12, GSAT 10 and IRNSS1C today (Sunday) morning, after carrying out four drift arresting maneuvers," the state-owned Indian Space

Research Organization (ISRO) said. The home-made satellite was launched by ISRO on board a rocket from the southern spaceport of Sriharikota on Aug. 27.

It is India's 25th geostationary communication satellite and 12th in the GSAT series, which provides communication through five spot beams in S-band and a national beam in C-band. The shelf life of the satellite is estimated to be nine years. (Xinhua)

UAE Assures Yemeni President of Continued Fight "Until Victory"

ABU DHABI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) said on Saturday the Gulf Arab state would continue to fight in Yemen until victory is achieved, state news agency WAM reported.

"The UAE will remain committed to the Arab Coalition alongside Saudi Arabia to defend Yemen and the region until security, stability and peace are restored to sisterly Yemen," the crown prince

of Abu Dhabi and deputy supreme commander Sheikh Mohamed told Yemeni President Abd Rabbu Mansour Hadi, one day after the deadliest incident for the Arab coalition in Yemen. On Friday, 22 Emirati soldiers were killed during the operation "Restore Hope" when a missile attack caused a blast at an ammunition store of the 107th Brigade in the eastern Yemeni oil

province of Marib. The attack also killed 10 Saudi soldiers and scores of Yemenis. Friday's losses marked the heaviest since the UAE's foundation as an independent state in 1971. As for the accident on Friday, Sheikh Mohamed said "such events will not deter us from carrying out our fraternal and humanitarian duty towards our brothers, but they will increase our

resolve and strength to achieve the security and humanitarian objectives in the region." Sheikh Mohamed also told Hadi that the UAE was with Yemen until the mission is accomplished. "Yemen is not your country alone, but we share common history with you. We pray to the Almighty Allah to bless our impending victory." Exiled President Hadi ar... (More on P4)... (26)

Putin Calls Recent Riots in Tajikistan Destabilizing Attempt



MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin said in a phone conversation with his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon that the recent riots in Tajikistan were an attempt to destabilize the country, Russian Channel One TV station reported Saturday. Citing Russian presidential spokesman Dmitry Peskov, the TV station reported that the Russian leader described the riots in Tajikistan "an attempt to destabilize the internal situation in the country" and expressed his support to the Tajik leadership, the TV station said. "Putin and Rahmon agreed to hold a separate meeting during the upcoming September 15 CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) summit in Dushanbe," the TV station added. The CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance bringing together six post-Soviet states, including Russia and Tajikistan. Over 30 police officers and nine rebels were killed in Tajikistan early Friday in attacks by a terrorist group on the outskirts of the capital city of Dushanbe and in the town of Vahdat, some six miles (about 10 km) away from Dushanbe. The terrorist group which had seized arms and ammunition was reportedly led by Major General Abdulhalim Nazarzoda, the country's former deputy defence minister who had been dismissed for unspecified crimes. Nazarzoda is said to be a member of the Islamic Renaissance Party of Tajikistan which the government closed down last week. (Xinhua)

Majority of French People in Favor of Military Intervention in Syria



PARIS - Majority of French people backed Paris' military operation on Islamic State (IS) in Syria after the year-long civil war in Damascus triggered Europe's worst migration crisis since the Second World War, a survey showed on Sunday. A 61 percent of respondents supported France's strikes against the militant groups and to send ground troops in the conflict-torn Arab country, an Odoxa poll showed. The eventual military offensive has an overwhelmingly support with the 65 percent of the ruling Socialists' supporters said yes to use military option to end Syrian crisis while 67 percent of the rightists were in favor and more than two thirds of far-right National Front's followers backed French action on Syria. "They prefer to make war

there rather than welcome (Syrian) refugees here," says Gael Sliman, Odoxa's director.

France has been providing weapons to opposition Syrian Kurdish forces but has repeatedly ruled out taking part in strikes on the Islamic State inside Syrian borders without a United Nations mandate. However, it was the first country to join U.S.-led coalition military offensive against Islamist fighters in Iraq. According to the daily Le Monde, French President Francois Hollande was considering military action in Syria. He discussed the issue with his defense team at a meeting on Friday after Syrian civil war forced thousands of people to put their lives on edge by boarding rickety boats to cross to Europe. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Iran, Iraq Sign Three Agreements on Economic Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran and Iraq have signed three agreements for the expansion of cooperation in various economic fields between the two neighboring countries.

According to Iranian media, the agreements were signed in presence of Iran's Minister of Economic Affairs and Finance Ali Tayyebnia and his Iraqi counterpart, Hoshyar Zebari, in Tehran on Sunday.

The agreements aim to boost cooperation between Iran and its western neighbor in such areas as customs, taxation and mutual investment. Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of the signing ceremony, Iran's minister of economic affairs and finance said according to the agreements, Iran and Iraq will expand customs cooper-

ation while taking steps to do away with double taxation and encourage mutual investment in the two countries.

Tayyebnia further stated that the volume of bilateral trade between Iran and Iraq currently stands at USD 12 billion a year, expressing hope that the new agreements will further increase that figure to over USD 20 billion.

Zebari, for his part, congratulated the Iranian nation and government on the conclusion of the nuclear talks between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group of countries - the US, the UK, France, Germany, China, and Russia - in Vienna on July 14, which led to an agreement between the two sides, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). (PressTV)

China's Military Committed to Reform

BEIJING - The overhaul of the military has reached a point of no return as measures to shake up structure, revise attitudes and adjust interests are already set in motion, according to an article responding to an announcement that the armed forces will be downsized.

By the end of 2017, China will have reduced its military personnel by 300,000. This will be the 11th time the military has been reduced in size since the founding of New China in 1949, and the fourth time since the 1980s.

The cuts are part of a wider slew of measures to reform the People's Liberation Army (PLA), which will have about 2 million members after the reduction, compared with 6.27

million in October 1949. As a country grows stronger, national defense and military strategies become more important, according to the article run in Friday's edition of the PLA Daily.

President Xi Jinping, who is also chairman of the Central Military Commission, has, on many occasions, stressed that "a prosperous nation and a strong army" are the foundations upon which national rejuvenation will be built, it said.

Many major countries are accelerating military reform and international competition for military predominance is fierce, the article said, adding that state security will be threatened if China's mili... (More on P4)... (27)

Tajikistan Police Attackers to be 'Deservedly Punished'

DUSHANBE - Ex-Soviet Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon said Sunday that violence which has left at least 22 dead since attacks against police on Friday is the result of "criminal plans" and promised perpetrators would be "deservedly punished." Speaking in the provincial town of Vahdat following two shootouts allegedly organized by a rogue former deputy defence minister, Rahmon pledged to punish those responsible for the attacks. "I want to offer my condolences to the families of the dead police and special forces, and declare that the guilty will be deservedly punished," Rahmon said. "This was carried out by criminals... who had criminal plans,"

he said. Nine police and 13 militants died following two shootouts with police in the capital Dushanbe and Vahdat in the early hours of Friday morning, the interior ministry said. On Sunday, the ministry said that the situation in Dushanbe and Vahdat was "stable" and being controlled by state security forces. Around 500 weapons were seized and 32 militants detained following the shootings, including at least six serving members of the country's defence ministry, the interior ministry said. A government air and ground military operation was launched in response to the attacks, targeting militants it says are commanded by Abdulhalim Nazar... (More on P4)... (28)

Pakistan Condemns Killing of Coalition Troops in Yemen

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Sunday condemned a deadliest attack in Yemen that killed dozens of soldiers of the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. The attack on the coalition forces in Yemen on Friday resulted in the loss of 60 lives, including 45 from the UAE, the coalition officials said. Top security advisor Sartaj Aziz said Pakistan fully supported the political objectives of the coalition to restore unconditionally the legitimate government

in Yemen and withdrawal of Houthis from the territories seized by them including the capital of Sanaa. "Pakistan has strongly condemned actions by Houthis to overthrow the legitimate government in Yemen led by President Hadi," Aziz said in a statement. Aziz said Pakistan firmly believed that peaceful settlement of the crisis in Yemen, in accordance with the UN Security Council Resolution 2216, will significantly contrib... (More on P4)... (29)