

# UN Official Urges Iran to Sign Nuclear Test Ban Treaty

UNITED NATIONS - The head of the U.N.'s nuclear test ban treaty organization says Iran should follow up on its historic nuclear deal with world powers by ratifying the treaty and assuring it will never conduct a nuclear test explosion. Lassina Zerbo said in an interview Friday with The Associated Press that if Iran doesn't ratify the treaty, "it will leave room for the doubt that people have put in this deal and the good intentions of Iran." Zerbo said Iran should have signed the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, known as the CTBT, before negotiations started on the deal to



rein in its nuclear program, in order to give assurances to critics that it has no in-

tention to develop nuclear weapons - and that there is a religious prohibition, or

"fatwa," against possessing them, issued in 2013 by Iran's supreme leader,

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Ratifying the treaty now, he said, will assure doubt-

ers in the United States and elsewhere that before or after the nuclear agreement ends in 15 years, Iran will never conduct any nuclear test explosions in a search to develop nuclear weapons. Zerbo said ratifying the treaty will also give Iran a stronger position to say that it has complied with all arms control treaties and is part of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, so "what else do you need from us to show good faith with regard to our intention to only use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes?" "I believe in what they say, and that's why I'm telling ... (More on P4)...(20)

## Obama Likely to meet Netanyahu in November: White House

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama will likely hold talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in early November, the White House said on Friday, their first meeting since U.S.-led diplomacy resulted in an Iran nuclear deal that Israel fiercely opposed. Efforts to arrange a White House visit by Netanyahu appear aimed at easing tensions between Washington and its closest Middle East ally now that Obama's Democrats in the U.S. Senate have blocked a Republican bid to derail the landmark Iran agreement. The dispute over the deal that Iran reached in July with

world powers, which calls for curbs on its nuclear program in return for sanctions relief, had driven an already rocky relationship between the Obama and Netanyahu governments to a new low. White House spokesman Josh Earnest said the exact date for the meeting was still being finalized but that it was likely to be in early November. "It's an indication that despite our well-known differences on even some key issues, the bond between the United States and Israel when it comes to our security relationship is unshakable," he told reporters at the daily White House briefing. Earnest



said the talks with Netanyahu would include a discussion on deepening U.S.-Israeli security cooperation. Obama refused to see Netanyahu in March when the Israeli leader accepted an invitation from Republican leaders, without consulting

the White House, and gave a speech to Congress in which he harshly criticized Obama's negotiations with Iran, Israel's regional arch-enemy. The two leaders have since spoken by phone but have not seen each other ... (More on P4)...(21)

## More War, Less Cash, new Routes Drive Migrant Push to EU

GENEVA - Migrants have for years taken death-defying trips across the Mediterranean to reach Europe, but the flow has hit record proportions this year - notably with an influx of Syrians, Afghans and Eritreans fleeing war, repression or poverty back home. The push has by some accounts already topped 432,000 people this year. While some are economic migrants, most are Syrians fleeing carnage at home. Traveling mostly into Greece by way of the Aegean Sea from Turkey, more than 175,000 have flooded into Europe this year - already more than

twice the number in all of last year, the International Organization for Migration says. A variety of factors including a spike in fighting and sagging international aid are fueling the surge. Here's a look at major causes: Lebanon, Turkey and Jordan have absorbed the lion's share of Syrians fleeing their war-torn homeland, with roughly 4 million amassed in refugee camps and communities in those countries. The countries may now be hitting their saturation point, experts say. Tensions and even clashes ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Egypt's President Asks Oil Minister to form new Cabinet after Government Resigns

CAIRO - Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi on Saturday asked Oil Minister Sherif Ismail to form a new cabinet within one week after the government submitted its resignation, a statement from the presidency said. It was not immediately clear why the government resigned but officials told Reuters on condition of anonymity that Sisi had been unhappy with the performance of several ministries. The announcement comes almost one week after the authorities arrested Egypt's agriculture minister over corruption allegations. Egypt is battling an insurgency headed by an affiliate of Islamic State while trying to attract more foreign investment in an economy reeling from years of turmoil that followed an uprising that toppled autocrat Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Ismail will likely be appointed the new prime minister, replacing Ibrahim Mehleb. An engineer

who held senior posts at several state-run energy firms, Ismail is seen as one of the best performing ministers. As oil minister, he oversaw politically sensitive reforms, slashing energy subsidies, and also paid back some arrears to foreign energy companies to improve Egypt's image among investors. Sisi has asked the previous government to carry on in a caretaker role until a new administration is formed, the statement said. Egypt, the Arab world's most populous country, is due to hold long-delayed parliamentary elections next month, the final step in a process the government has said would deliver democracy. In his former role as army chief, Sisi toppled Egypt's first freely-elected president, Islamist Mohamed Mursi, in 2013 after mass protests against his rule. Sisi was later elected president on promises of political stability and economic prosperity. (Reuters)

## Egypt's Government Resigns Amid Corruption Probe

CAIRO - Egypt's government resigned Saturday in the face of intense criticism from state-friendly media that reflects growing discontent but stops short of faulting President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, the former general who led the overthrow of an Islamist president two years ago. The office of the president said he accepted the resignation of Prime Minister

Ibrahim Mehleb and his Cabinet but that the ministers would continue to serve until a new body is appointed. El-Sisi tasked Petroleum Minister Sherif Ismail with forming a new Cabinet within a week. Prior to handing in his resignation, Mehleb provided a report detailing the performance of the government, which two officials from the president's office said el-Sisi found

"unsatisfying." The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they are not authorized to brief reporters. The country's private media, while lavishing praise on el-Sisi, have slammed the government in recent weeks, accusing ministers of incompetence and of being out of touch with ordinary citizens suffering from years of turmoil since the 2011 uprising

that toppled longtime autocrat Hosni Mubarak. "El-Sisi and the armed forces are responsible for the accomplishments we see," said Ibrahim Eissa, a prominent journalist and popular TV host, who called Mehleb and his Cabinet a "burden" on the president. "All of the ministers that failed were Mehleb's choices," Eissa told viewers earlier this week. (AP)

## Saudi Arabia Blames Winds for Deadly Crane Collapse, Opens Investigation

DUBAI - Saudi Arabia said on Saturday that stormy winds knocked over the crane which collapsed onto one of Islam's holiest shrines in Mecca and killed 107 people on Friday. "Heavy rain and strong winds of unusually high speed led to the uprooting of trees, the fall of panels and the collapse of the crane," General Suleiman al-Amr, director general of the Civil Defence Authority, told Saudi-owned Al Arabiya TV on Saturday. The number of deaths may increase, al-Amr said. Many of the 238 people injured

in the accident were only lightly wounded, he said. Mecca's governor, Prince Khaled al-Faisal, has ordered an investigation into the incident, Al Arabiya said. Much of the city center is undergoing construction work and many high cranes crowd the skyline. The Grand Mosque itself is undergoing an expansion and renovation. The disaster was the latest in a series of deadly mishaps to hit the haj, one of the world's largest religious gatherings, after hundreds of pilgrims died in a stampede in 2006. Authorities have broad-



ened access paths and imposed limits on the millions of Muslims who converge on Mecca to perform the annual rite in an attempt to reduce accidents. An unnamed Saudi official involved in organizing the haj was quoted

by Al Arabiya as saying the pilgrimage would go ahead as planned. "The incident won't affect the haj pilgrimage this year and repairs to the damaged section (of the mosque) will begin within days," the official said. (Reuters)

## Hungary Suggests Aiding Syria's Neighbors to Halt Migrants

BERLIN - Hungary's hard-line prime minister has proposed that the European Union step up aid to Syria's neighbors to stem the flow of refugees from camps there, while Germany's vice chancellor said Saturday that his nation is "reaching limits." The 28-nation European Union is divided over how to deal with the influx, with Germany and Austria stressing the right to asylum for war refugees and Hungary in particular arguing that most are economic migrants. Hungary and other eastern nations reject proposed quotas to spread

the human tide around the EU. Hungary plans to start enforcing tougher frontier security on its border with Serbia Tuesday. Asked in an interview with German daily Bild where future arrivals should go, Prime Minister Viktor Orban replied, "to where they came from." He argued that people coming to Europe from camps in Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey "were safe there" and added: "There is no fundamental right to a better life, only a right to safety and human dignity." Orban suggested every EU country ... (More on P4)...(23)

## NATO Deals with Security Challenges in Ukraine, Syria

ISTANBUL - NATO top commanders meet here Friday to discuss security challenges in Ukraine and Syria as tension is mounting between the rivals over the crisis. A welcome ceremony was held in the Dolmabahce Palace, Istanbul, as Turkish Chief of General Staff Gen. Hulusi Akar and NATO Military Committee Chairman Gen. Petr Pavel marched and saluted soldiers.

NATO's highest military authority, the Military Committee, started the three-day meeting to review security challenges in Europe and the Middle East, as well as ongoing operations in Afghanistan. The meeting will focus on the implementation and progress of the readiness action plan, regional security and its challenges, NATO's current mission in Afghanistan, Resolute

Support, and the Western Balkans. The meeting comes at a time when tension between NATO and Russia over the Ukrainian crisis is mounting with an alliance decision to increase its deterrence in the Black Sea, Baltic Sea and Eastern Europe. Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said on Thursday that it is sending humanitarian assistance, military supplies and advisers to

Syria and will send additional aid if asked, thus raising U.S. concerns it will escalate the civil war and send even more migrants to Europe. Russia's move comes after Bulgaria and Ukraine this week closed their airspace to Russian flights to Syria to stop any Russian military buildup there. The top commanders of the alliance will also talk about the grow ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Neighbour News

### Chinese Navy Fleets Leave for China-Malaysia Military Drill

SANYA - Chinese navy fleets on Saturday left a port in Sanya in south China's Hainan Province for a military exercise jointly held by China and Malaysia. The drill, coded "Peace and Friendship 2015," is scheduled to be held from September 17 to 22 in the Malacca Strait and surrounding waters. It will include exercises for joint escort, joint search and rescue, hijacked vessel rescue, weapons use, humanitarian rescue and disaster relief. It will be the first joint drill between the two armed forces and the largest bilateral military exercise between China and a country from the

Association of Southeast Asian Nations. A joint command post will be set up by the two sides to coordinate air, land and sea forces. Armaments to be displayed by China will include a missile destroyer, a missile frigate, a hospital ship, four transportation planes and three helicopters. "The military drill aims to deepen the China-Malaysia all-round strategic partnership, enhance bilateral military exchanges, improve ability to address security threats and jointly safeguard regional maritime security," said Hu Weihua, who commands the Chinese navy fleets. (Xinhua)

### IAEA Plans No Inspections of Iran Military Site: AEOI

TEHRAN - An Iranian nuclear official says no inspections of Iran's military sites are on the agenda of a planned visit by inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) to Iran. Deputy head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) Ali Asghar Zare'an said on Saturday that IAEA inspectors are scheduled to arrive in Tehran on Tuesday for talks, IRNA reported. "In this round of the negotiations, inspections of [Iran's] military sites are not on the agency's agenda," he added. The AEOI official emphasized that there is no "measure or directive" on inspecting the country's military sites. Zare'an noted that discussions would be held on practical measures in the future within

the framework of the agreement reached between Iran and the P5+1 known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Tehran's nuclear program. On July 14, Iran and the P5+1 countries - the United States, Britain, France, China, Russia and Germany - finalized the text of the (JCPOA) in the Austrian capital Vienna. Under the JCPOA, limits will be put on Iran's nuclear activities in exchange for, among other things, the removal of all economic and financial bans against the Islamic Republic. On July 14, Iran and the IAEA signed a road map for "the clarification of past and present issues" regarding Iran's nuclear program in the Austrian capital, Vienna. (PressTV)

### Pakistani Forces Nab 60 "Suspected Militants" Near Islamabad

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani law enforcement agencies on Saturday arrested nearly 60 people over their suspected links with the militants near Islamabad, police said. Police told reporters that two would-be suicide bombers were among the suspects. A huge cache of arms, including 30 Kalashnikov rifles, ammunition, explosives, detonators and narcotics were recovered during an early morning raid in Tarnol in the outskirts of capital Islamabad. Police said 10 were identified as militants from the country's tribal regions. "The operation was conducted jointly by the paramilitary troops and the police on an intelligence report," a police officer said at a news briefing where the recovered arms and explosives were shown to the media

persons. He said that 50 suspects had arrived from the tribal regions while 10 others were Afghan refugees. "All are now being questioned about their activities," the police officer said. Meanwhile Customs Intelligence foiled a major terrorist bid in the north-western city of Peshawar on Saturday and seized a container carrying nearly 30,000 km of explosives, officials said. Director of Customs Intelligence in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, Muhammad Asghar Khan, told a press conference in Peshawar that the terrorists wanted to use this explosive material in carrying out terrorist activities, however, Customs Intelligence averted this major bid. One person was arrested during the checking, he said. (Xinhua)

### Turkmen Security, Diplomats Learn about Human Rights in Criminal Proceedings

BISHKEK - Forty students of the Interior Ministry's Institute and the Foreign Ministry's International Relations Institute of Turkmenistan discussed international human rights standards at the pre-trial stage of criminal proceedings and investigations during an OSCE-organized course concluding in Ashgabat. The four-day course addressed universally recognized international human rights standards and their application in criminal proceedings and forms of pre-trial procedure and adversarial system. "The international community has developed numerous human rights

standards related to criminal justice demonstrating the importance of guaranteeing human rights of persons involved in criminal proceedings," said Vardon Deniz Hoca, Human Dimension Officer of OSCE Center in Ashgabat. "We believe this course will contribute to the host Government's efforts aimed at the Constitutional reform." Two international experts elaborated on participation of suspects and defendants in criminal proceedings and guaranteeing their rights and freedoms, including the right to protection and competent legal assistance and ... (More on P4)...(25)