

# NATO Vows to Continue Fight Against Terrorism

ISTANBUL - NATO top commanders vowed to continue their fight against terrorism of any kind as they wrapped up a close-door meeting here on Saturday. "Terrorism poses direct threats to NATO and international stability. It will remain the threats in the foreseeable future," NATO Military Committee Chairman Petr Pavel said at a press conference. Turkish Chief of General Staff Hulusi Akar said "these new risks force us to be decisive as never before. We brought our airbases into service, we are battling with any kind of terrorism with strong deter-



mination." However, both generals withheld any detail information of military actions against the Islamic State (IS). Petr Pavel said NATO's 28 member states are against any kind of threats and will respond to ... (More on P4)...(22)

challenges in both eastern and southern flanks, keeping all countries safe. As to Russia's involvement in Ukraine and Syrian, he said the action plan was initiated in Wales, due to Russian events in Ukraine, as a reaction to the need for assurance for Eastern European state members of NATO who fell threatened by Russia's incredible behavior close to their borders. This plan consist of two measure sets. One is assurance measure aiming to protect local population and NATO is ready to assist if it is necessary, he said, the other parts are ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Thousands more Migrants on their Way into Austria: Police

VIENNA - Austrian authorities said they were expecting another wave of migrants and refugees coming over the border from Hungary on Sunday, after a brief lull in arrivals gave them a chance to re-stock reception centres. Austria struggled last week to cope with thousands of people entering its territory, almost all of them on their way to Germany. The train link to Hungary has been closed since Thursday in a bid to stem the flow. Only 50 people crossed the border early on Sunday morning, but Hungarian authorities had

said more were on their way and numbers could climb to 500 an hour, a spokesman for the Austrian police said. Based on recent experience, the Austrian authorities were expecting 6,000-8,000 new arrivals through the day, the spokesman added. Thousands of refugees, many of them fleeing the Syrian conflict, are crossing into Hungary, an eastern outpost of Europe's passport-free Schengen zone, every day. Many are traveling on to the continent's more prosperous west and north in what is Europe's worst refugee crisis since



the Yugoslav wars of the 1990s. The police chief for Austria's Burgenland province, which borders Hungary, told ORF radio on Saturday a lull in arrivals had let the authorities clear backlogs and clean reception centers, but he expected more arrivals soon. Hungary plans to seal its southern frontier with a fence by Sept. 15. Its police said 4,330 migrants were detained on Saturday, most of them near Roszke, on the border with Serbia. (Reuters)

## Iran Slams Continuation of Saudi Military Aggression Against Yemen

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian diplomat has slammed continuation of the Saudi war on Yemen during the Hajj pilgrimage, saying the military aggression defies constructive diplomacy and peace. "Yemen will have no military winner," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hosenin Amir-Abdollahian said on Sunday, adding that Iran has presented an appropriate political solution to help Riyadh get out of the ongoing crisis in Yemen. "Tehran supports national dialog among all Yemeni sides," the Iranian dip-

lomat said. In a letter to UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon in April, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif submitted a four-point peace plan on Yemen in an attempt to end the bloodshed in the Arab country. The proposal stresses the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Yemenis as well as dialog among various groups in the country. Amir-Abdollahian said UN efforts to dispatch humanitarian aid to Yemen, lift the Saudi blockade on the country, and put an end to war and bloodshed have ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Lavrov Says Moscow to Continue Military Support of Syria: Reports

MOSCOW - Russia will continue with military supplies to Syria, Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies on Sunday. Moscow has come under increased international pressure in recent days over what Washington and Gulf states say is a Russian military build-up in Syria, where the Kremlin has been supporting

President Bashar al-Assad in a four-and-a-half-year war. "There were military supplies, they are ongoing and they will continue. They are inevitably accompanied by Russian specialists, who help to adjust the equipment, to train Syrian personnel how to use these weaponry," Lavrov said. Lavrov also said that Russian President Vladimir

Putin, who is traveling to New York for the U.N. General Assembly meeting later this month, plans to address the assembly on the topics of Syria, the conflict in Ukraine, the state of the global economy and sanctions against Russia. "He (Putin) will touch specific aspects, such as Syria, the Ukraine crisis. All these crises arise from systemic problems re-

garding attempts to freeze the process of forming polycentric world," Lavrov said. The United States and its allies oppose Assad, whose government has been fighting an array of insurgent groups, including hardline Sunni Islamist militants, Islamic State. A U.S.-led coalition is conducting air strikes on Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. (Reuters)

## Refugee Crisis Shows the Changing Soul of Germany

BERLIN - Europe's refugee crisis is revealing the changing soul of Germany. Back in 2010, Chancellor Angela Merkel declared that multi-culturalism in Germany had been an abject failure; today the nation is opening its arms to hundreds of thousands of refugees, many of them Muslims from Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan. The same year, politician Thilo Sarrazin published his book "Deutschland schafft sich ab" (Germany does away with itself), warning that Muslim immigrants were ruining German society. It shot to the top of the best-seller lists. And yet in the past week crowds of Germans have greeted mi-

grants arriving in the country with cheers, while volunteers are turning out in droves to help them. "This is the moment where Germany has recognized it has a global role," says Harold James, an economic historian at Princeton University. "The country is changing very, very quickly." The government expects 800,000 people to seek asylum in Germany this year, nearly twice as many as in any other year since reunification 25 years ago. Merkel, known for her caution, has taken the high-risk step of opening Germany's doors wide, and implored her European Union partners to follow the example. Encouraged by her... (More on P4)...(24)

## Russians Vote in Local Elections, Opposition Mostly Shut Out

MOSCOW - Voters are casting ballots across Russia for local legislators and governors, in elections expected to be won by candidates loyal to President Vladimir Putin. Legislative elections are being held in 11 of Russia's 83 regions, but the anti-Putin opposition was allowed to run only in the Kostroma region a few hundred kilometers (miles) north of Moscow. Opposition candidates campaigned throughout the rural,

economically depressed region, but came up against a general feeling of apathy. Most Russians still see no alternative to Putin and have little interest in a political process now controlled by the Kremlin. Even in Moscow, with its wealthier, more Western-oriented population, the opposition has been marginalized in recent years. Sunday's elections are being seen as a dress rehearsal for next year's vote for a national parliament. (AP)

## Al Qaeda Chief Urges Lone Wolf Attacks, Militant Unity



CAIRO - Al Qaeda leader Ayman al-Zawahiri called on young Muslim men in the United States and other Western countries to carry out attacks inside there and urged greater unity between militants.

"I call on all Muslims who can harm the countries of the crusader coalition not to hesitate. We must now focus on moving the war to the heart of the homes and cities of the crusader West and specifically America," he said in an audio recording posted online on Sunday, referring to nations making up the Western-led coalition in Iraq and Syria. He suggested Muslim youth in the West take the Tsarnaev and Kouachi brothers, who carried out the Boston marathon bombings and Charlie Hebdo shootings in Paris respectively, and others as examples to follow.

It was not clear when the recording was made but references to former Taliban leader Mullah Mohamed Omar as being alive suggest it is at least two months old. Omar's death was announced by Afghanistan's government in late July. Zawahiri reiterated his position on Islamic State, repeating what he said in a recording posted on Wednesday - that he viewed the group's claim to be a caliphate as illegitimate but would join them in fighting Western and secular forces in Iraq and Syria. (Reuters)

## Neighbour News

### Iran Pins Importance on Ties with Brazil: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran attaches importance to the growth of its "good" ties with Brazil as the economically-influential country in the Latin America, Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said here on Sunday, according to official IRNA news agency. To this end, both countries should identify their potentials of cooperation in diverse areas, Rouhani said in a meeting with the visiting Brazilian Minister of External Relations Mauro Luiz Jecker Vieira. "Iran and Brazil boast considerable progress in industry, technology and science, which can serve as the ground for cooperation and exchange of

experiences," Rouhani was quoted as saying. The Iranian president pointed to the climate of post-nuclear deal between Iran and the world powers reached in July, saying that there is no obstacle on the development of relations between the two countries, and the Brazilian investors can use this opportunity to partake in Iran's macro projects. As for political issues in the world, Rouhani said that Tehran and Brasilia have common stances over the independence of the countries and are against discrimination and mono-lateralism as far as the international is... (More on P4)...(25)

### China, U.S. Reach Important Consensus on Cyber Security

WASHINGTON - China and the United States have reached important consensus on combating cyber crimes. The consensus was reached during a visit by President Xi Jinping's special envoy Meng Jianzhu, a member of the Political Bureau of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC) and head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Central Committee. During the visit from Wednesday to Saturday, Meng exchanged in-depth views on tackling outstanding issues of law enforcement and security, including cyber crimes, with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson and U.S. National Security Advi-

sor Susan Rice. Meng, who led a delegation composed of officials from the ministries of public security, state security, justice and information technology, said China and the United States are both countries with highly-developed Internet technology. Against the backdrop of frequent incidents and ever-increasing security threats in cyberspace, it is especially important for the two to enhance mutual trust and cooperation in the sphere of cyber security. Stressing China's firm stand against cyber attacks and commercial cyber espionage, Meng said anyone who conducts such acts in the Chinese territory violates the laws of China and will be subject to legal liability. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan Confirms 6 Nationals Die in Saudi Crane Crash

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani officials Sunday confirmed that six Pakistanis have died in a crane crash incident in the Saudi city of Mecca late Friday during the annual pilgrimage. Saudi officials said 107 people were killed and nearly 300 wounded when a crane toppled over at Mecca's Grand Mosque in Saudi Arabia due to strong winds and rains. Pakistani Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Manzoor-ul-Haq said that six Pakistanis were killed while 36 were injured in the deadly crane crash. The injured Pakistanis are receiving treatment in three hospitals in Mecca, the ambassador said in a statement. Pakistani mission released names of those died in the incident. Pakistani sources said that at least 10 Pakistani intending-pilgrims are missing. Over 150,000 Pakistanis

are performing Hajj this year, according to the religious affairs ministry. Foreign Office spokesperson Qazi Khalilullah said in Islamabad on Saturday that 25 Pakistani pilgrims who sustained minor injuries have been discharged after treatment. The spokesman said that a Pakistani medical team, who was in Saudi Arabia in connection with the annual pilgrimage, is engaged in providing medical treatment to the injured. Pakistani Federal Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Sardar Yousaf said the diplomatic mission is in constant contact with the Saudi authorities. The president and the prime minister of Pakistan have expressed shock at the incident and showed sympathies with the bereaved families. (Xinhua)

### South Korea's Growing Ties with Uzbekistan

SEOUL - South Korean diplomats held a grand celebration to commemorate the 24th anniversary of Uzbekistan's declaration of independence from the USSR. This spectacle, which took place at Seoul's Lotte Hotel, brought back to the spotlight the marked improvement in relations between South Korea and Uzbekistan in recent years. Uzbekistan highlighted its commitment to South Korea as a major partner, when Uzbek president Islam Karimov chose South Korea as his first travel destination following his rubber-stamp May 2015 reelection. Uzbekistan has also displaced

Kazakhstan as South Korea's primary trade partner in Central Asia, with \$1.9 billion in trade linkages being recorded last year between the two countries. South Korea's rebalance towards Uzbekistan is intriguing, and can be explained by two primary factors. First, South Korea and Uzbekistan share many economic interests in the energy, infrastructure and manufacturing sectors. The ROK has deftly balanced its investment in these sectors to maximize its influence in the Uzbek economy. Second, South Korea and Uzbekistan have significant normative and cultural synergy. (Agencies)

### At Least 12 IS Militants Killed in Clashes with Security Forces in Iraq

BAGHDAD - At least 12 militants from the Islamic State (IS) extremist group were killed in clashes with Iraqi security forces in Iraq's western province of Anbar on Sunday, while a U.S.-led coalition air strike destroyed a vehicle bomb factory, a provincial security source said. In the early morning hours, fierce clashes erupted in Fallujah University compound and the nearby Haiyakel area, just south of the IS-held city of Fallujah, which located some 50 km west of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The several-hour battle resulted in the killing of 12 IS militants and the

destroying of several of their vehicles, the source said without giving details about the casualties among the security forces. Separately, international warplanes carried out an air strike on a house in central Fallujah believed to be a car bomb factory, destroying four car bombs inside and killing unknown number of IS militants, the source said citing intelligence reports. Iraqi security forces and allied Hashd Shaabi paramilitary militias have been fighting for months to retake control of key cities and towns in Iraq's largest province from IS militants, which seized most of Anbar and tried to advance toward Baghdad. (Xinhua)

### Indian PM to Visit Facebook Headquarters in California



NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi accepted an invitation from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg on Sunday to visit the social networking giant's headquarters in the United States. "I thank Mark Zuckerberg for the invite to visit @facebook HQ & for the Townhall Q&A at 10 PM IST on 27th September," Modi said in a post on his Facebook page. The tech-savvy prime minister's post was in response to Zuckerberg's invitation for an interaction at the company's head-

quarters in Paolo Alto. "Prime Minister Modi and I will discuss how communities can work together to address social and economic challenges," Zuckerberg said in a post. Modi will start his second U.S. tour later this month since he assumed office last year. The focus of this visit will be the Silicon Valley with his new slogan "Start Up India." The Indian prime minister is slated to meet U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House on Sept. 28, on his return from California. (Xinhua)