

Indonesia, Turkey agree on Cooperation to Combat Terrorism

JAKARTA - Indonesia and Turkey have agreed to strengthen their intelligence cooperation as a way to bolster their efforts to combat terrorism and prevent the spread of radicalism. The agreement was achieved in a meeting Thursday between Indonesia's President Joko Widodo and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan, who is on a three-day visit to Indonesia. In a speech earlier in the day Erdogan denied what he described as "black propaganda" that Turkey is assisting terrorist organizations. He said actions by the



Islamic State group run against Turkey's "religion, conscience, customs and tradition." Turkey has stopped 16,000 foreigners who

were suspected of heading to Syria and Iraq to fight alongside IS, and

it has deported about 1,600 of them to their home countries. More

than 1,300 have been arrested and detained. (AP)

EU Starts Implementing latest Iran Nuclear Agreement

BRUSSELS - The European Council here on Friday said it adopted the first legal acts implementing the latest Iran nuclear deal, which would allow for certain relief of sanctions against Iran. The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on the Iranian nuclear issue was reached on July 14 in Vienna, and the United Nations Security Council adopted a resolution endorsing the JCPOA on July 20. "This resolution provides



for certain derogations from restrictions currently in place so as to allow the shipment of certain nuclear-related equipment out of Iran, the modification of two cascades in Fordow and the modernization of the Arak reactor; transfers and activities necessary to implement certain nuclear-related commitments

specified in the JCPOA or required for the preparation of the implementation of the JCPOA," said the press release. It said the legal acts adopted by the Council translate into EU law these provisions. And the legal acts are available in the Official Journal dated August 1. The comprehensive agreement on Iranian nuclear issue, Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was clinched after more than ... (More on P4)...(22)

Beijing's win of Winter Olympic bid hailed



BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday hailed the success of the bid for the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games by Beijing together with Zhangjiakou. In a congratulatory letter to the Beijing 2022 bid delegation, President Xi said, "All of you have made great efforts in the bid. I hope that with the support of all Chinese people, you keep on working hard to present a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Winter Olympics." Liu Yunshan, ... (More on P4)...(23)

US Statements on Attacking Tehran Violates Nuke Deal: Iran

VIENNA - A senior Iranian official is accusing the U.S. of violating the nuclear deal with his country through comments indicating that the accord would make any attack on Tehran's atomic program more efficient because it would result in greater insight about potential targets. The July 14 deal foresees increased oversight of Iran's nuclear activities by the U.N.'s International Atomic Energy Agency. Reza Najafi, the IAEA's chief Iranian delegate, quoted White House spokesman Josh Earnest as saying that would result in enhanced U.S. or Israeli military action against Iran - if needed - "because we'd been spending the intervening number of years gathering significantly more detail about Iran's nuclear program." Israel is a harsh critic of the deal and says it is keeping all options open to prevent Iran from getting nuclear weapons. The Obama administration says the agreement has accomplished its goal of preventing Tehran from getting such arms. Still, as part of White House pushback against congressional and other critics of the deal, Earnest, in his comments to reporters July 17 said that the U.S. "military option would remain on the table" if Iran breaks out of the deal and races to make a bomb. (AP)

US Supports Increased Rights for Media, Armed forces in Tajikistan

WASHINGTON - United States Ambassador to Tajikistan Susan M. Elliott, along with representatives from the U.S. Embassy, the Tajik government, media, and civil society, participated in the OSCE's Preparatory Human Dimension Implementation Meeting on July 27, 2015. The U.S. embassy said here on Friday. The event highlighted discussion on the current state of human rights in Tajikistan. Ambassador Elliott gave remarks discussing the importance of emphasizing human rights in media freedom, domestic violence, migration, and security in the armed forces. Ambassador Elliott stressed that a free and independent media is not the cause of security threats, but rather a safeguard against them. She noted that when reporting on se-

curity issues, the media should strike a balance between the legitimate security concerns of the government and the rights of the citizens guaranteed by Tajik and international law. The Ambassador also cautioned against restricting access to independent reporting and communication, an action that would leave Tajikistan's citizens more vulnerable to politically-motivated disinformation from other sources. In her final remarks, Ambassador Elliott proposed that the government of Tajikistan and media outlets actively protect and promote citizens' access to independent media in order to lessen the potential for disinformation while also stimulating the industry to be more diverse, competitive, and lucrative. (Agencies)

Greek Bailout Talks Shift into Higher Gear



ATHENS - Greece's talks with its international creditors on a third bailout worth 85 billion euros (\$93 billion) shifted into a higher gear on Friday, with lead negotiators from the European Union and International Monetary Fund meeting key ministers in Athens. The talks with Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos and Economy Minister Giorgos Stathakis follow preparatory meetings in the Greek capital this week between lower-level officials on reforming the tax system and labor market regulations. The third bailout will include a new punishing round of austerity measures heaped on a country reeling from a six-year recession and more than 25 percent unemployment. Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras has pledged to back the new cutbacks, while openly admitting that he disagrees with them. "We will implement them, yes, because we are forced to," he said in parliament Friday. "But at the same time we will struggle to change them, to improve them and to counter their negative consequences." The bailout talks with the IMF, European Commission, European Central Bank and European Stability Mechanism must be concluded before Aug. 20. That's when a debt repayment to the ECB worth more than 3 billion euros is due - money which Greece does not have. (AP)

Greece, EU need to take Urgent Action to Tackle Refugee Crisis: UNHCR Officials

ATHENS - Greece and the European Union need to take urgent and bold action to tackle the refugee crisis unfolding in the country, UN's refugee agency UNHCR officials said in Athens on Friday. Addressing a press briefing at the end of a five day visit to Greece, UNHCR's Director of the Bu-

reau for Europe Vincent Cocherel and Director of Emergency, Security and Supply Terry Morel, urged the government to take stronger steps to address the mounting challenge.

From the start of 2015 more than 109,000 persons, mainly refugees, have arrived in Greece

mostly by the sea from Turkey, fleeing from war-torn countries like Syria, according to UNHCR figures.

Almost eight in ten new arrivals this year come from Syria (62 percent) and Afghanistan (21 percent). Out of a total of 53,500 Syrians who have reached Southern Eu-

rope so far in 2015, about 45,000 have landed in Greece. The number in 2014 in the same period (January-June) was about 6,400 people. The reception infrastructure in the debt laden Greece, services and registration procedures are inadequate compared to the increasing needs, the

experts noted after touring reception centers on the islands, the mainland and a central Athens park where over the past three weeks 500 Afghans are living with no shelter. The UNHCR considers there is an emergency situation in Greece today regarding new arrivals of ... (More on P4)...(24)

France to Decide on Suspended Mistral deal with Russia by Summer end: PM

PARIS - France, which suspended the delivery of two Mistral helicopter carriers to Russia due to Ukrainian crisis, would announce "important decisions" in the coming month after reports revealed a compensation deal between Paris and Moscow, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls announced on Friday. "We will have the opportunity to speak about that in few days, in few weeks. Important decisions will be taken before the end of summer," Valls said at the end of a

cabinet meeting. On Thursday, Russian media reported that France and Russia reached a compensation deal for the cancellation of the vessels' delivery. Paris would pay Moscow 1.2 billion euros (1.31 billion U.S. dollars) for going back on the two warships order, initially scheduled to be delivered on November 2014. After pressure to suspend the 1.2-billion-euro deal amid escalating violence between Kiev and pro-Russian separatists, French President Fran-

cois Hollande in September last year decided to halt the delivery of the Mistral warship to Russia following the worsening situation in Ukraine despite diplomatic efforts to end the crisis peacefully. But the eurozone's second largest power, already dogged by a fragile growth, high budget deficit and alarming unemployment, could face further challenges to put its finances in order because of the eventual billion of euros compensation claims. (1 euro = 1.09 U.S. dollars) (Xinhua)

German Justice Minister Casts Doubt on Treason Probe

BERLIN - Germany's justice minister is casting doubt on whether a website committed treason by reporting on authorities' plans to expand surveillance of online communication, following federal prosecutors' much-criticized decision to open an investigation. Website Netzpolitik.org, which covers digital rights issues, said Thursday it was notified by prosecutors of the probe against two journalists and an unidentified source, a rare investigation of journalists for treason.

Justice Minister Heiko Maas said he told the chief federal prosecutor Friday that he doubts the leaked documents cited in the website's reporting constituted a "state secret" whose publication would endanger Germany's security. Chief prosecutor Harald Range was quoted as telling the daily Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung that the investigation will be "paused" until prosecutors receive an expert opinion on whether the website's reporting revealed state secrets. (AP)

Cuban Immigration Dilemma far from over Despite Human Trafficking Concerns

MEXICO CITY - The U.S. Customs Border and Protection said that 9,371 Cubans arrived in the U.S. in the first quarter of 2015, marking a 118-percent surge over the same period in 2014. In fact, the increase happened in the months following the start of negotiations on the restoration of diplomatic ties between the U.S. and Cuba, which was finally clinched on July 20. Dubbed "wet foot, dry foot", the U.S. policy that welcomes Cuban migrants who make it to the U.S. shore but turns back those caught at sea has sent out confusing

signals. This controversial U.S. policy culminated in the case of six-year-old Elian Gonzalez who was rescued in a sinking boat off the coast of Florida in 1999. The boy finally returned to Cuba after a heavily mediated legal battle. Looking back in 2013, Gonzalez said that the Cuban Adjustment Act (CAA), adopted by the U.S. Congress in 1966, had denied his rights, including "the right to be together with my father, the right to keep my nationality and to remain in my cultural context." Speaking during the negotiations in January,

Josefina Vidal, director of the U.S. affairs of Cuba's Foreign Ministry, blasted the U.S. immigration policies as encouraging human smuggling and illegal immigration. The issue of human trafficking was spotlighted on July 30, the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. In a gesture of rapprochement, Washington removed Cuba from the blacklist of countries involved in human trafficking. At the same time, Cuba was raised from Tier 3 to Tier 2 Watch List in the U.S. State Department's annual "Trafficking in Persons" report. (Xinhua)

US Stocks Little Changed as Investors React to Earnings

NEW YORK - U.S. stocks were mixed in early trading Friday, as investors reacted to some disappointing quarterly earnings. Declines were led by energy companies after two big oil companies reported a slump in earnings. KEEPING SCORE: The Dow Jones industrial average fell 19 points, or 0.1 percent, to 17,735 as of 10:24 a.m. Eastern time. The Standard & Poor's 500 index rose two points, or 0.1 percent, to 2,111 and the Nasdaq composite was up 14 points, or 0.3 percent, to 5,143. BIG OIL HUMBLED: Shares of Exxon Mobil and Chevron, the two largest publicly energy companies, fell almost 5 percent

each in early trading. Both companies reported their results Friday, posting major declines in profits largely due to the big drop in the price of oil over the past year. Exxon said its earnings fell 52 percent, missing estimates. Chevron reported a profit of 30 cents a share, well below the \$1.13 analysts expected. BOTTLED UP: Coca-Cola Enterprises, an independent bottling company of Coca-Cola products, jumped \$4.87, or 11 percent, to \$50.36 after The Wall Street Journal reported that Coca-Cola Enterprises is in merger talks with its European counterparts. NO RAISE: U.S. wages and ... (More on P4)...(25)

Chinese President Extends Appreciation to IOC for Trust and Support

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a letter of appreciation to the International Olympic Committee (IOC) President Thomas Bach on Friday evening, expressing thanks to IOC for its trust and support in selecting Beijing together with Zhangjiakou as the host of the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. In the letter, President Xi said, "Today, Beijing together with Zhangjiakou has won the bid to host the 2022 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games. Let me extend, on behalf of the Chinese government and people, our appreciation to the IOC for its trust and strong support over the years." President Xi said, "To

present a fantastic, extraordinary and excellent Winter Olympics is the aspiration of over 1.3 billion Chinese people. We will fulfill all our commitments and witness, together with the people of all other countries and the IOC, the advent of a new phase in the development of the Olympic winter sports and in the spread of the Olympic spirit." "The Chinese government and people will implement in good faith the Olympic Agenda 2020, create a new record for the same city to host both the Summer and Winter Olympic Games, and make new contribution to the advancement of the Olympic spirit," President Xi said. (Xinhua)

Pakistan PM to meet Turkish President

ISLAMABAD - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, on his way back from Indonesia, will be stopping over at Islamabad on Saturday, and will meet Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during the stopover, the Foreign Ministry said Friday. The two leaders will hold discussions

on enhancement of bilateral relations, and global and international issues of mutual interest, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said. This will be his first visit to Islamabad as the president of Turkey. Erdogan earlier visited Pakistan in December 2013 as the prime minister of Turkey. (Xinhua)