

# Top Russian, US and Saudi Diplomats to Meet in Qatar

MOSCOW - Russia's foreign minister has scheduled a trilateral meeting in Qatar with his U.S. and Saudi counterparts. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that Sergey Lavrov will confer with U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Saudi Foreign Minister Adel Al-Jubeir during his two-day trip to Doha starting Sunday. Kerry earlier has said he plans to meet separately in Doha with Lavrov to discuss Syria, Iran and the ongoing crisis in Ukraine. The ministry said that



during his visit to Qatar, Lavrov will discuss the crises in Syria, Libya

and Yemen, international efforts to combat the Islamic State group and

Iran's role in regional affairs after last month's signing of Iran's nuclear

deal. Despite Russia-U.S. tensions over Ukraine, President Barack Obama

has thanked Moscow for helping reach the agreement. (AP)

## Moscow to Respond to U.S. Anti-Missile Deployment, new Sanctions against Russia

MOSCOW - Russia is capable of responding strongly to U.S. anti-missile defense plans as well as the new sanctions imposed on Moscow over the Ukraine crisis, the Defense Ministry said Friday. "We decided on how to respond," the ministry said, adding that the U.S. "won't find it funny" and will soon realize the pointlessness to deploy anti-missile shield. According to a representative of the ministry, Russia's response



will be based on advanced technological solutions which will allow the army to bypass any anti-missile umbrella. Russia has been working on the supersonic aircraft classified as "Object 4240" with a capability to render U.S. anti-missile systems redundant, Interfax news agency quoted an unnamed representative as

saying. "That will be a guaranteed solution of neutralizing any prospective anti-missile defense system," the ministry said. Moscow has been gravely concerned about NATO's intention to deploy heavy weapons in Eastern Europe and the Baltic countries. The Kremlin has warned to take appropriate responses to any possible military build-up near Russian borders. The official

## Merkel to run for Fourth term in 2017: Der Spiegel

BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel, who has ruled Germany since 2005, has decided to run for a fourth term and has started planning her 2017 re-election campaign, according to an unsourced report on Saturday in Der Spiegel news magazine. A spokeswoman for Merkel's Christian Democrat (CDU) party declined to comment on the report. The chancellor is on a hiking holiday in the Alps. Merkel, who

turned 61 on July 17, has not made any public comments about whether she would run for a fourth term, although she did hint in a speech in Cologne last year she would stand again. Merkel, who has guided Europe's biggest economy through the 2008 financial crisis and euro zone turmoil, regularly ranks as one of Germany's most popular leaders, which is unusual for a sitting chancellor. ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

## India in Bid to free 2 Hostages in Libya



NEW DELHI - The Indian government says it has been trying to secure the release of two of its nationals kidnapped by suspected Islamic State (IS) militants in Libya. A total of four Indian nationals, all teachers at a local university there, were kidnapped at an IS-controlled checkpoint near the Libyan city of Sirte Wednesday. Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj Friday said the government has managed to secure the release of two of the four kidnapped teachers and trying to get the other two freed. "Four Indians abducted in Libya. I am happy we have been able to secure the release of Lakshmi-kant and Vijay Kumar. Trying for other two," Swaraj tweeted. The four teachers, who are from the southern Indian states of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh and teaching at the University of Sirte, were kidnapped on their way to India. India issued an advisory in July last year calling on its citizens to leave Libya, after a group of 65 Indian nurses were trapped in fighting in the war-torn country. Though all the nurses, who had been working in hospitals in Libya, safely returned to India a month later, the fate of 40 Indian construction workers kidnapped in Iraqi city of Mosul is still not known. (Xinhua)

## Indian Security Officials meet to Discuss IS threat

NEW DELHI - India's home ministry convened a high-level meeting of security officials on Saturday to discuss the threat posed by terror group Islamic State (IS), local media reported. The Indo-Asian News Service quoted unnamed official sources as say-

ing that the meeting was attended by security and police officers of 12 states, including Indian-controlled Kashmir, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Karnataka. It would discuss ways and means to deter youngsters from joining the ter-

ror group, said the media report. Muslim communities will be required to persuade young people not to get "attracted towards the ideology of the terror group," said the report. Four Indians were reportedly kidnapped in Libya by IS militants earlier ...*(More on P4)...(23)*



## Exiled Yemeni PM Returns to Aden

ADEN - Exiled Yemeni Prime Minister Khaled Bahah arrived in the country's southern port city of Aden on Saturday, as the pro-government forces were on the momentum to retake key cities in the south. Bahah, who is also the vice president, and six ministers of the exiled government landed in the Aden International Airport by a Saudi plane, with protection of soldiers of the Saudi-led coalition on Saturday, sources at the airport told Xinhua. The prime minister will hold meetings with anti-

Houthi forces in Aden on military operations in neighboring Lahj and Abyan provinces, security sources said, adding that the ministers will also focus on rebuilding efforts and aid delivery. The Saudi-led coalition has fought against the Shiite Houthi militia and forces loyal to former President Ali Abdullah Saleh in Aden since late March when the Houthis were besieging the city. Yemeni President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi was ousted by the Shiite Houthi group who had controlled the capital Sanaa since September.

He fled to Aden, the temporary capital as he declared, in late February after weeks of house arrest, and has been taking refuge with his cabinet in the Saudi capital of Riyadh since March 26. Bahah announced "liberation" of Aden on July 17, saying "it is the first step to liberate the whole country." Meanwhile, airstrikes launched by the coalition killed at least 25 Houthis in Yemen's central province of Marib, security sources told Xinhua on Saturday. They said the warplanes pounded Houthi ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

## Japan to Protest If U.S. Spying Confirmed: Media

TOKYO - Japan would protest against the U.S. government if the U.S. National Security Agency (NSA) did spy on the Japanese government as the Wikileaks website revealed, local media reported Saturday. The Wikileaks website on Friday posted NSA reports and list of 35 Japanese targets for telephone intercepts including the Japanese Cabinet Office, the Bank of Japan, the country's finance and trade ministries and major Japanese trading companies. According to the website, the eavesdrop-

ping dated back at least to the time of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's first government launched in 2006, and one report from intercepts of senior Japanese government officials could have been shared with Australia, Canada, Britain and New Zealand, the four U.S. intelligence partners. Regarding this, a Japanese government source who requested anonymity said, "If this is true, it is extremely regrettable. We need to lodge a protest. But the Japanese government first must verify it." ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

## Fiji's Military Commander Resigns, to become

SUVA - Fiji's military commander has resigned and will pursue a career in the foreign service, the Fijian government announced Saturday. Brig. Gen. Mosese Tikoitoga had been commander of the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) since March 5, 2014, when Voreqe Bainimarama resigned from the post to run for the Pacific island country's September general election where he won a landslide victory. "On the recommendation of the Chairman of the Constitutional Officers Commission, the Prime Minister (Bainimarama),

His Excellency the President, Ratu Epeli Nailatikau, has appointed Captain Viliame Naupoto as acting commander with immediate effect," the Department of Information said in a statement. Naupoto has been promoted to the rank of commodore and will remain as acting commander of the RFMF until a substantive appointment to the position is made, the statement added. Bainimarama also held the rank of commodore when he was the RFMF commander. He was promoted to rear admiral after his retirement from the navy. (Xinhua)

## UN Announces Closure of Emergency Mission for Ebola

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday announced the closure of the UN Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER). The first-ever UN emergency health mission was established in September 2014 with its headquarters set in Ghana to meet immediate needs related to the fight against the unprecedented outbreak of Ebola in West Africa and is closed on July 31, 2015. "The Mission has achieved its core objective of scaling up the response on the ground and establishing unity of purpose among respond-

ers in support of the nationally led efforts," said Ban in a statement released by his spokesperson. "As we continue to actively strive to end the Ebola outbreak in West Africa, we have reached an important milestone in the global Ebola response," he noted. As of Aug. 1, oversight of the UN system's Ebola emergency response will fully be led by the World Health Organization (WHO), under the direct authority of the WHO director-general, according to the statement. In addition, Ban has maintained the high-level Ebola crisis managers in

the hardest-hit countries under the oversight of WHO and with the support of the UN resident coordinators and UN country teams to get to zero cases, according to the statement. The Ebola outbreak swept through the West Africa last year. Guinea, Sierra Leone, and Liberia are the three hardest-hit countries in the region. According to the latest WHO Ebola situation report, there were seven confirmed cases of Ebola virus disease reported in the week to July 26: four in Guinea and three in Sierra Leone. This is the lowest weekly total for over a year. (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### Iran's Parliament has no Power over Nuclear Deal: To Negotiator

DUBAI - Iran's parliament does not have authority over the nuclear agreement signed with world powers last month, the Islamic Republic's top nuclear negotiator was quoted as saying on Saturday. The comments from Ali Akbar Salehi, the head of Iran's atomic energy agency, are the latest volley in a lengthy battle between Iranian officials supportive of the deal, and hardliners who are skeptical of it. The conservative-dominated parliament in June passed a bill imposing strict conditions on any nuclear deal, such as barring international in-

spectors from Iran's military sites. Under the terms of the final deal, however, Iran must provide access to suspect sites including at its military facilities within 24 days, or risk sanctions being reimposed. "It is absolutely not the case that the government must bring before parliament any agreement it wants to sign with a foreign country," Salehi was quoted as saying by state news agency IRNA. "The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action is not a treaty or a convention, and I don't know under what definition it would go to parliament." View ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

### China-Pakistan Wind Farm Generating Massive Electricity

YICHANG - A Pakistan wind farm built and funded by the China Three Gorges Corporation is generating more than 1 million kilowatt-hours of electricity every day. The project is operating for more than 20 hours a day, a spokesperson for the Chinese state-owned renewable energy giant said on Saturday. Since it went into operation in November, the facility has generated around 93 million kilowatt-hours, said the spokesperson.

With an installed this is the first China-backed wind farm in Pakistan. It is an example of the work the two countries are doing to build the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, part of the broader Belt and Road regional trade and infrastructure network. China and Pakistan have signed many deals to help lift Pakistan out of its economic slumber and boost growth for the Chinese economy. (Xinhua)

### Uzbekistan Creates 100,000 jobs for Migrants in six Months

BISHKEK - Almost 442 thousand jobs were created in Uzbekistan in the first half of 2015, 100 thousand (25% of total number of jobs) of which are for migrants returning to the home country, reported the State Committee on Statistics of the country. Earlier, 987,500 Uzbek people were planned to be employed, including 409,500 jobs for migrants in 2015. Most of jobs (62.2%) for migrants will be created in rural areas

of the country, says the representative of the State Committee on Statistics. Migrants will get support from the government, loans for purchasing and renting commercial real estate will be provided. Currently, 4-6 million people (almost one third of labor pool) are working abroad, in particularly, in Russia. 2.1 million of Uzbek citizens are in the Russian Federation, according to Federal Migration Service. (AKIpress)

### Chinese VP meets with Kazakhstan PM

KUALA LUMPUR - Chinese Vice Premier (VP) Liu Yandong met with Kazakhstan Prime Minister Karim Masimov on Friday after Beijing was chosen as the host to the 2022 Winter Olympics. Beijing won 44 nods against Almaty's 40 in the International Olympic Committee's voting Friday afternoon, becoming the first city ever to host both summer and winter Olympics. During the meeting, Liu said China regards Kazakhstan

as a good friend and a good partner and the two countries will strengthen mutually-beneficial cooperation. On the 2022 Winter Games race, Liu said she respected the great efforts made by Kazakhstan in Almaty's bid for the Olympics and a fair competition between Beijing and Almaty represented the Olympic spirit. Masimov congratulated China on Beijing's spectacular final presentation to the IOC members and its successful bid. (Xinhua)

### Uzbekistan Increases Exports of Natural Gas to Kazakhstan

BISHKEK - Uzbekistan has exported 1,772.8 billion m3 of natural gas to Kazakhstan in the first half of 2015 with 39.4% growth in comparison to the same period last year. In monetary terms, the exports in the reporting period made \$158.8

million, which is 46.9% more than the same period of 2014, according to the State Revenue Committee of the Ministry of Finance of Kazakhstan. Uzbekistan also exports natural gas to Russia, Kyrgyzstan, and China. (AKIpress)