

NATO Warsaw Summit to Focus on Defense, Deterrence

BRUSSELS - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Monday outlined the Warsaw Summit agenda, noting that NATO leaders will take key decisions to strengthen the Alliance's defense and deterrence and project stability beyond NATO's borders. Stoltenberg told a press conference that since the Alliance's last summit in September 2014 in Wales, NATO has implemented the biggest reinforcement of its collective defense since the Cold War. "We delivered a faster, a stronger, and a more ready Alliance," Stoltenberg added, "We now



need to take the next steps. So at our Summit in Warsaw, we will agree to further enhance our military presence in the eastern part of the Alliance." According to NATO's press release, NATO leaders will agree to deploy four robust, multinational battalions to Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Poland. Further efforts to strengthen the Alliance's deterrence and defense include a tailored presence in the south-east, based on a multinational brigade in Romania and steps to improve cyber-defense, civil preparedness and the ability ... (More on P4)...(24)

UN Committed to Holding Intra-Syrian Talks by End of August

UNITED NATIONS - The UN special envoy, Stefan de Mistura, is committed to holding intra-Syrian talks by the end of August, a UN spokesman said here on Thursday, citing the deputy UN special envoy for Syria. Ramzy Ezzeldine Ramzy told reporters in Geneva that "for these talks to be fruitful, the cessation of hostilities has to stand and be reinforced," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here.



diator, has been vying to get the intra-Syrian talks back on track since negotiations seeking to reach a political agreement by

Aug. 1 were put on hold in April this year. Both the humanitarian situation in the war-torn country since 2011 and

fighting between government troops, opposition forces and terrorist factions have prevented negotiations from resuming. Regarding Aleppo in northern Syria, Ramzy noted that the United Nations is currently in intense discussions with Russia and the government of Syria to ensure that the civilians are protected and that standards of international humanitarian law are respected in any aid operation, Dujarric said. (Xinhua)

Over 250,000 Children Malnourished in S. Sudan

JUBA - The UN children's fund, UNICEF, said on Friday that at least 120,000 children under five years in South Sudan have been treated for severe malnutrition in the past six months and over 250,000 others are yet to be reached. UNICEF South Sudan spokesperson, James Timothy Irwin, told Xinhua that low rates of exclusive breastfeeding and insecurity caused much of the malnutrition. He said surveys in 2006 indicated that only 22 percent of mothers in South Sudan exclusively

breastfeed their children. "We have treated more than 120,000 children under five years old for severe malnutrition across South Sudan in the first six months of 2016. We have also revised our target for the number of children to be treated from 166,000 to more than 250,000," Irwin said. UNICEF said violence in the country has prevented aid agencies from delivering life-saving assistance to thousands of malnourished children. Irwin said they are ... (More on P4)...(25)

Obama Calls Himself Feminist in Birthday Essay

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama called himself a feminist in an essay published on Thursday in Glamour magazine, urging all men to keep fighting against gender stereotypes and double standards. Thursday is Obama's 55th birthday and also the last one he can celebrate in the White House. In the essay titled "This is What a Feminist Looks Like," he writes: "It's important that their (his two daughters') dad is a feminist, because now that's what they expect of all men." He is reportedly the first

sitting U.S. president to openly proclaim that he is a feminist. The 1500-word essay was widely praised in social media here. Reviewing what has shaped his own feminism, Obama cited the hardworking of his mother and grandmother and the pressure on his wife Michelle to balance her career and parenting. However, he weighed watching his daughters grow up as the strongest factor in shaping his thoughts about feminism. "When you're the father of two daughters, you become even more aware ... (More on P4)...(26)

Trump's Piling Insults on Hillary Clinton Could Backfire

WASHINGTON - U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump continues to pile insults on rival Hillary Clinton recently, but experts said that could hurt him more than help him. Recent days have seen Trump ramping up on the insults against Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, even referring to her as "the devil." But while experts said the brash businessman should be focusing on Clinton's policy blunders, he continues to engage simply in name



calling. "Trump's insults reinforce the perception that he is ill-tempered

and not well-suited for the presidency," Darrell West, vice president and director

of governance studies of the Brookings Institution, told ... (More on P4)...(27)

Iraqi Judiciary Bans Travel for MPs Accused of Corruption

BAGHDAD - The Iraqi judiciary banned Thursday the parliament speaker and six lawmakers from travelling abroad over allegations of corruption revealed by the defense minister earlier in the week, a judicial official said. The ban came a day after the Supreme Judicial Council drew up a panel to examine the claims of corruption revealed by Khalid al-Obeidi during his questioning session on Monday. "The judicial panel decided to prevent the names mentioned by the minister Khalid al-Obeidi from travelling abroad," the spokesman of the Supreme Judicial Council Abdul Sattar al-Biraqdar told reporters. On Monday, the parliament summoned the defense ... (More on P4)...(28)

U.S. Supports Argentina's Economic Reforms: Kerry

BUENOS AIRES - Visiting U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said here on Thursday that his country supports the economic reforms initiated by Argentinean President Mauricio Macri last December. After meeting separately with Macri and Foreign Minister Susana Malcorra, Kerry told a press conference that the U.S. supported "the decision by President Macri to insert Argentina into the world economy. He has made important and courageous decisions to push Argentina toward the future." Kerry said that he found a renewed sense of optimism during a meeting he held with the Argentine-American Chamber of Commerce. However, he said that Argentina should ... (More on P4)...(31)

Current World Calls for G20 to Play Bigger Role

BEIJING - Against the backdrop of weak global economic recovery and uncertain political situation, countries in the world look forward to the Group of 20 (G20) playing a bigger role in global governance and economic growth. Due to the uncertainty surrounding Britain's exit from the European Union, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in July revised down its forecast for global growth in 2016 and 2017, expecting that the global economy to grow 3.1 percent in 2016 and 3.4 percent in 2017, both 0.1 percentage points lower than



its forecasts in April. Meanwhile, a retreat from globalization is emerging as a danger to the world economy, and a tide of populism is rising, with the appeal of Donald Trump as an example.

Therefore, the world pin high hopes on the G20 that covers economies taking up 85 percent of the world economy. It is common sense that economic development is a precondition for ... (More on P4)...(29)

THAAD Deployment Short-Sighted for Seoul: Russian Expert

MOSCOW - The deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile defense system is a serious policy mistake made by South Korea, which is expected to escalate tension on the Korean Peninsula, a Russian political analyst said. "The decision to deploy THAAD missile defense system in South Korea is a provocation from the American side ... the system provides no additional benefits for the defense of South Korea," Oleg Barabanov of the Moscow State

Institute of International Relations told Xinhua. Meanwhile, its deployment will serve to escalate tension on the Korean Peninsula, forcing the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to take countermeasures, he noted. The DPRK on Wednesday fired two ballistic missiles, one of which was reportedly landed in Japan's exclusive economic zone. The launch was the latest in a volley of missiles fired by the DPRK, apparently ... (More on P4)...(32)

Aust'n PM Orders Banks to Face Annual "Accountability" Checks in Parliament

CANBERRA - Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has ordered the bosses of the nation's biggest banks to front Parliament once a year, in an attempt to keep them accountable. Following a decision by many of the major banks to not pass on the full interest rate cut determined by the Reserve Bank of Australia on Tuesday,

Turnbull reacted to the backlash by ordering the "health check", in which the banks would appear before the House of Representatives economics committee to explain their rationale. The Opposition has bashed the move as "weak"; they would like a royal commission into the banking sector, something Opposition Leader Bill ... (More on P4)...(33)

Syrian Army Kills 150 IS Militants in Deir Al-Zour

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army on Friday foiled an attack by the Islamic State (IS) on military positions in the eastern province of Deir al-Zour, killing 150 of the terror group militants, state news agency SANA reported. The Syrian army foiled the IS attacks on military positions in the Tal Bruk in the countryside of Deir al-Zour, said SANA. SANA spelled no further details, but the IS group has repeatedly carried out attacks against government positions in that oil-rich province. The IS controls much of the countryside of Deir al-Zour province, except the city, which is still under the government control, but besieged by the IS. Russian aircrafts frequently carry out airdrops of aid and food to the besieged people ... (More on P4)...(30)

Nieghbor News

Syria Gains in Aleppo 'Turning Point' in Resolving Crisis: Iran MP



TEHRAN - A senior Iranian lawmaker says the recent advances of the Syrian army and its allies in the northwestern city of Aleppo are a "turning point" in the settlement of the crisis in the Arab country. Alaeddin Boroujerdi, the chairman of the Iranian parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy, made the remarks in a meeting with Syrian Prime Minister Imad Khamis in Damascus on Thursday. The Iranian legislator expressed hope that the Syrian army would emerge victorious over the foreign-backed militancy soon. Aleppo has been divided between government

forces and militants since 2012, a year after the conflict broke out in the Arab country. The Syrian forces are pushing terrorists back in militant-controlled areas of Aleppo as part of a military operation aimed at fully liberating it from the grip of the extremists. Boroujerdi also criticized the foreign sponsors of Takfiri militants, saying, "Terrorism will backfire on its supporters who seek to hatch big plots against the entire region." He also said Iran and Syria have "strategic and historical" relations, and the Islamic Republic is assisting the Syrian people in their fight against terrorism. (Presstv)

China Vows to Deepen Economic, Trade Cooperation with ASEAN

VIENTIANE - China on Thursday vowed to deepen economic and trade cooperation with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). The pledge was made during the 15th China-ASEAN (10+1) economic ministers' meeting which was held here in the Lao capital on Thursday. Speaking at the meeting, Chinese Minister of Commerce Gao Hucheng highlighted the fruitful cooperation between China and ASEAN over the past 25 years. He said bilateral cooperation in trade and economy has all along been a "ballast" and "propeller"

in China-ASEAN dialogue relationship. Pointing out that there is immense potential for cooperation in industrial capacity between China and ASEAN, the Chinese minister called for more efforts in this regard and building cross-border industrial chains. China stands ready to work with ASEAN on cluster cooperation in such fields as railway, information and communication, chemical industry, engineering machinery and agriculture, he said, adding that enterprises from both sides are encouraged to carry out all-round cooperation. (Xinhua)

Uzbekistan, Vietnam Plan to Expand Legal Framework

TASHKENT - Representatives of Uzbek and Vietnamese foreign ministries have discussed the current status of the legal framework of relations and prospects for expanding it, Uzbekistan's Foreign Ministry said in a Statement on Thursday. The discussions were held during the consultations between Uzbek and Vietnamese foreign ministries Aug.24 in Hanoi, Vietnam. Currently, the relations between Vietnam and Uzbekistan are regulated by a number of intergovernmental documents, including the treaty on the bases of

interstate relations and cooperation, agreements on mutual encouragement and protection of investments, scientific and technical cooperation, collaboration in the sphere of tourism, creation of an intergovernmental commission on trade and economic, scientific and technical cooperation. Moreover, Uzbek delegation met with Vietnamese Deputy Foreign Minister Le Hoai Trung. During the meeting, the parties expressed mutual interest in further intensifying the bilateral cooperation and positively assessed the results of the previous talks. (TNA)

Turkmenistan Closes Border with Kazakhstan over Security

BISHKEK - Turkmenistan has temporarily closed its doors for the foreign nationals who can enter the Central Asian nation on simplified procedures. The reason for the move is "strengthening of security measures at the border," the State Revenue Department of Mangistau region, which borders Turkmenistan, said. The border is closed

from August 4 to 8. According to the bilateral agreements, citizens of Kazakhstan permanently residing in Mangistau region can enter, leave, and stay without a visa in the territory of the Balkan province of Turkmenistan for up to 5 days. The rest of the citizens of Kazakhstan shall apply for a visa to enter Turkmenistan. (AKIpress)