

# US, Ukraine Urge End to Soaring Tensions with Russia

WASHINGTON - US Vice President Joe Biden and Ukraine's President Petro Poroshenko in a phone call urged a speedy resolution to the conflict with pro-Russian separatists amid a spike in tensions with Moscow, the White House said.

Biden and Poroshenko "expressed concern over the recent surge in fighting in eastern Ukraine, where ceasefire violations by combined Russian-separatist forces are at their highest levels since 2015, often using heavy weapons", the White House statement read.

Kiev and the West accuse Russia of supporting the separatist rebels in eastern Ukraine and deploying troops across the border - claims Moscow denies.

Biden and Poroshenko "reiterated the need for a political and diplomatic resolution of the conflict through full imple-



mentation of the Minsk agreements by all parties," the statement added.

The Minsk accord, signed in February 2015 with French and German mediation and in the presence of President Vladimir Putin, calls for a ceasefire along with a range of political, economic and social measures to end the conflict.

Biden told Poroshenko that US officials "had sent a message to Russia that the world is watching and underscored the need to deescalate the situation."

He also urged Ukraine to show restraint.

Poroshenko on Thursday said he could not rule out a "full-scale" Russian invasion as violence raged in the east, amid accusations that Russia is building up its military force in the region.

The Pentagon on Friday said that the extra Russian troops along the border were associated ... (More on P4)...(19)

## DPRK Says Deputy Ambassador to UK Fled to Escape Punishment

PYONGYANG - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) said Saturday that Deputy Ambassador to Britain Thae Yong Ho has reportedly defected to the South to escape punishment for committing crimes.

Thae was accused of embezzling state funds, selling state secrets and raping a minor, said a commentary released by the official news agency KCNA.

The DPRK had recalled him in June to put him under investigation, and on

July 12, the country's Central Procuratorate decided to start a probe, the KCNA added.

The commentary also slammed South Korea's coverage of the incident and blamed Seoul for using the case to tarnish the DPRK's image and step up anti-DPRK campaigns.

The incident was exacerbated by the fact that Britain, in disregard of international extradition practices, ignored the DPRK's request to send Thae back, but... (More on P4)...(20)

## Turkey to Play More Active Role to Solve Syrian Crisis: Yildirim

ISTANBUL - Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said on Saturday that his country will play a more active role in helping address the Syrian crisis within the next six months.

"Turkey supports the territorial integrity of Syria and will do its best to prevent the country from being ethnically divided," Yildirim told the foreign press in Istanbul.

He said Iran, the Gulf countries, the United States and Russia can make joint efforts to end the war in

Syria and set details over a transition period in the country.

The premier added that Syrian President Bashar al-Assad could be accepted as an actor during the transition period but he has no place in Syria's future, as he would not be able to keep the integrity of the country in the long run.

On Wednesday, Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus described Ankara's policy on Syria, under which al-Assad's ouster had been



insisted upon, as "a source of many sufferings for Turkey today."

Kurtulmus was referring to repeated terror attacks and ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Modi Meets Visiting Nepalese Deputy PM

NEW DELHI - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday met with Nepalese Deputy Prime Minister Bimalendra Nidhi, who is on a visit to India as Nepalese Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal Prachanda's special envoy.

The Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Vikas Swarup posted photos of the meeting on twitter.

Nidhi's visit is the first high-level one from Nepal to India after the

formation of the new Nepalese government earlier this month.

Nidhi also met with Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj and Home Minister Rajnath Singh on Friday.

Swaraj said India will work closely with the Nepalese government, and invited the prime minister of the Himalayan nation to visit India, while Nidhi lauded India's effort for the economic development of his country. (Xinhua)

## UNHCR Refugee Awareness Campaign Upsets Latvian Defense Ministry

RIGA - A public campaign calling for empathy with refugees has upset officials from Latvia's Defense Ministry as they find some of its elements insulting to Latvian soldiers and home guards, local media has reported.

The Defense Ministry has sent the Foreign Ministry a letter, asking the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), which launched the campaign, to remove the offensive elements from the campaign titled "We would



do the same". The Defense Ministry's state secretary Janis Garisons argued that the public awareness campaign was misguided, because rather than

highlighting the refugees' humanitarian plight, it claimed both implicitly and explicitly that Latvians themselves would rather flee than fight for their country, which in the ministry's view is insulting to the Latvia's professional armed forces and especially home guards, the ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Suu Kyi Says Peace is Top Aim in Myanmar

BEIJING - Achieving peace and unity among different peoples in her country is the most important aim, Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi said in Beijing.

Suu Kyi made the remarks when meeting with the press at the Diaoyutai state guesthouse on Friday, during her visit to China.

Suu Kyi is on a five-day visit to China at the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang. China is the first country that Suu Kyi has visited outside of the ASEAN, since she took office in April.

She said that peace and unity among different groups of people is what Myanmar needs most.

"Without peace, there can be no sustained development," Suu Kyi said.

Ethnic armed groups have existed in Myanmar since the country gained independence in January 1948. The Myanmar government started ceasefire talks with several ethnic armed groups from November 2013, and a nationwide ceasefire accord between the Myanmar ... (More on P4)...(25)

## Obama to Visit Flood-Ravaged Baton Rouge

BATON ROUGE - President Obama is expected to travel to Baton Rouge next Tuesday to get a firsthand look at the devastating flood damage in the state.

The White House said in a press release the President was updated Friday morning by DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson, who is on the ground in the state, on the ongoing recovery efforts in the flood-affected regions.

Obama this weekend is wrapping up a 16-day vacation on Martha's Vineyard, and has received some criticism for participating in leisurely activities like playing golf while



Louisiana contends the damage brought about by historic flooding.

But White House officials have pushed back on those who have compared it to former President George W. Bush's reaction to Hurricane Katrina, pointing to

the massive recovery operation underway by FEMA and regular updates Obama has been receiving on the situation throughout the week.

Obama is scheduled to leave the Vineyard on Sunday, ... (More on P4)...(23)

## 40 Sub-Saharan Immigrants Storm into Spanish Enclave of Melilla

MADRID - A number of 40 sub-Saharan immigrants were able to storm their way over the frontier fence separating the Spanish North-African enclave of Melilla from Morocco on Saturday morning.

The assault on the frontier took place at 6:45 a.m. local time as 150 people attempted to cross into what is Spanish, and therefore also European Union, territory, the government delegate in Melilla informed.

Of the 150 who made the attempt, 40 were successful and make their way through the streets of the Melilla to the Center For Temporary Immigrant Residency (CETI) in the center of the town.

There have been no reports of injuries

among immigrants making the attempt or among Spanish Civil Guards and Moroccan security forces guarding the frontier. Some of the immigrants who made it into Melilla told journalists that they have been waiting outside of the frontier for three months before attempting to scale the six meter high fence and confirmed that they had originally come from Equatorial Guinea, Burkina Faso and Gambia.

This is the first major attempt to cross between Morocco and Melilla in almost two months with the last major assault on the frontier on June 26 when a group of 120 people, of whom 30 were successful, tried to cross into Melilla. (Xinhua)

## Aussie PM Forced to Defend Handing Homeless Man 5 Dollars

CANBERRA - Australian Prime Minister has had to publicly defend handing a homeless beggar 5 Australian dollars (4 US dollars), as goes against the directive of the local mayor.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull handed a beggar the money while on his way to give a speech at the Committee for Economic Development of Australia in Melbourne, and after the gesture was shot by an eagle-eyed photographer, news spread on social media.

Some criticized the premier for being "stingy," some applauded the generosity, while others highlighted that giving money to beggars goes against

the wishes of Melbourne's Lord Mayor Robert Doyle.

After it came to the attention of Australian media on Friday, Turnbull felt the need to defend the gesture in comments published in Saturday's newspapers, saying that it was a "human reaction" and was not meant to be a symbol of encouraging homelessness in Australia.

"I know people have got different views on that, but every time I see someone in that situation I always think, 'There for the grace of God go I,'" Fairfax Media's Saturday papers quoted Turnbull as saying.

"It was a human reaction and I'm sorry if that has ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Philippine President Mulls Ceasefire to Reciprocate Rebel Truce

MANILA - Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte is expected to declare a ceasefire on Saturday to reciprocate a week-long truce that the communist rebels announced, presidential communication secretary Martin Andanan said.

Andanan told ABS-CBN News Channel in an interview that Duterte has "expressed his willingness to reciprocate" the ceasefire that the rebels announced on Friday night.

"As to the official announcement we should be expecting it within the day," said Andanan, adding the details of the government ceasefire will be ... (More on P4)...(26)

## Neighbor News

### Iran Stands By Iraq under any Circumstances: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif calls the key role of Iraqi senior officials in establishing political stability in the country, saying Tehran will always stand by Baghdad.

"Iraq is at the forefront of campaign against terrorism and extremism, and Iran will stand by the Iraqi government and nation under any circumstances," Zarif said in a meeting with visiting Iraqi Parliament Speaker Salim al-Jabouri in Tehran on Saturday.

He said the Iraqi government and nation have been successful in the battle against extrem-

ism and terrorism so far and expressed confidence that they would successfully see out the final stages of the fight against terrorists in the northern city of Mosul through unity and solidarity among all tribes, ethnicities and faiths in the country.

Last week, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi announced that the Iraqi army was engaged in the final stages of planning the latest operations aimed at ridding the Nineveh provincial capital city of Mosul from the Daesh terrorists, who overran the country's second largest ... (More on P4)...(27)

### Pakistan Deports "Blacklisted" U.S. National: Officials

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan on Saturday deported a "blacklisted" American national two weeks after he was arrested in Islamabad, officials said.

Matthew Barrett was blacklisted and expelled in 2011 for his suspicious activities in Pakistan, according to the Interior Minister.

Barrett was questioned by the police about his arrival in Pakistan. The Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said last week that the U.S. national will be expelled as he is not

welcomed in Pakistan.

"Matthew Barrett was deported from the city of Lahore Saturday morning," officials said.

The interior ministry had suspended two immigration officials at Islamabad's Benazir Bhutto International Airport for allowing the blacklisted man to enter Pakistan on Aug. 6.

The Interior Ministry has also sought clarification from the Pakistani consulate in Houston of the United States for issuing him the visa. (Xinhua)

### China, India See New Opportunities for Economic Cooperation

NEW DELHI - On the southern bank of river Ganga in Patna, capital of the eastern Indian state Bihar, an industrial park has recently received a Chinese business delegation looking for investment opportunities. The industrial park is the largest in Bihar, a populous Indian state with a rich Buddhist heritage and a long history as a center for power and culture.

In contrast to the generally drab village scenes along Ganga, the industrial park, comprising mostly family-run businesses, appears to be a delightful change: workshops are spacious and neat -- signs that they are well managed. However, their products are almost all limited to daily necessities

like bread, soft drinks and children's food. The surrounding areas are mainly agricultural farmland and villages.

This kind of economic structure is quite common in the Hindi heartland of India, which is very rich in history and culture, but lags behind in technology and industry compared with some coastal areas and big cities like Delhi, Mumbai and Bangalore.

With the G20 summit due to open in the Chinese city of Hangzhou next month, many Chinese investors are again showing interest in projects in India, which has a huge market and great potential in growth and development. Being a founding member of the Asian Infrastructure ... (More on P4)...(28)

### Hammer Thrower Nazarov Wins First Gold for Tajikistan

DUSHNABE - Nazarov took the lead in the first round, but was immediately overtaken by Ivan Tsikhan of Belarus. He recovered first place in round three and remained on top. Both men recorded their best throws in the fifth round, with Nazarov hurling the metal ball 78.68 metres, compared with 77.79 for Tsikhan, who took silver.

Wojciech Nowicki of Poland won bronze, overtaking Mexico's Diego Del Real with his sixth and final effort after recording three fouls. "The reaction back home is going to be hard to imagine. I think the country were behind me tonight," said

the Tajikistan's flag-bearer at the opening ceremony of the Games. "It was the dream of my childhood to win an Olympic gold medal and I accomplished my task." Experienced thrower Tsikhan said his competitors have pushed him to improve over the years: "I would like to congratulate them for this medal, probably they wanted more from me, but silver is a great medal and you have to be happy with it. My opponents are very strong athletes and I respect them. They are my family, my colleagues and my opponents." Nowicki was leading the ... (More on P4)...(29)