

# Kerry's 'One State' Comments Cause Consternation in Israel

JERUSALEM - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has set off a furor in Israel by suggesting that Israel was destroying itself as a Jewish state. Kerry told a conference on Israeli affairs in Washington on Saturday that through its continued occupation of the West Bank, Israel could make it impossible to partition the land between Jewish and Palestinian states. He said the alternative would have to be a "binational state" in which Jews and Palestinians live together in one state, ending Israel's Jewish majority. "The one-state solution is no



solution at all for a secure, Jewish, democratic Israel living in peace, it is simply not a viable option," Kerry said. The U.S., along with most of the international community, has long argued that

a "two-state solution" — establishing a Palestinian state and ending Israel's control over millions of Palestinians in territories occupied in the 1967 war — is the best way of creating a long-term peace. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu reacted angrily on Sunday, telling his Cabinet that "Israel will not be a binational state" and blaming the Palestinians for the failure of peace efforts. But despite Netanyahu's pledges, Jewish settlement of the West Bank continues apace, while confusion over his true intentions grows by the day. (AP)

## NATO will not Send Ground Troops to Fight IS

ZURICH - NATO has ruled out sending ground troops to fight against Islamic State militants in Syria, NATO General Secretary Jens Stoltenberg told a Swiss newspaper, stressing the need to bolster local forces in the conflict. "That is not on the agenda of the coalition and the NATO allies," he told the Tages-Anzeiger paper when asked about dispatching ground forces to accompany air strikes. "The United States has a limited number of special forces. In the foreground, however, is strengthen-

ing local forces. This is not easy, but it's the only option," he added. Stoltenberg stressed that the conflict was not a war between the West and the Islamic world, but rather against "extremism and terrorism". "Muslims are on the front line in this war. Most victims are Muslims, and most of those who fight against the IS are Muslims. We can not carry on this struggle for them," he said. Stoltenberg pointed out that NATO would help Turkey improve its air defenses after Turkey... (More on P4)... (19)

## Syria Condemns U.S.-Led Airstrikes on its Army Positions

DAMASCUS - Syria's Foreign Ministry on Monday condemned airstrikes Sunday by the U.S.-led coalition that targeted Syrian army positions in eastern Deir al-Zour province, state news agency SANA reported. "The aggression by the U.S.-led coalition constitutes an impediment to the counter-terror efforts and stresses again the coalition lacks

credibility and seriousness in fighting terrorism effectively," the ministry said in a statement. The ministry said four coalition warplanes targeted a Syrian military camp in Deir al-Zour with nine missiles, killing three soldiers and wounding 13 others. The attack also led to the destruction of three armored vehicles, ... (More on P4)... (20)

## Turkish PM Vows not to Deploy more Troops to Bashika

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu sent a letter to Iraqi Prime Minister Haider Al-Abadi late Sunday, promising not to "deploy more troops to Bashika until your concerns about the matter are eased." In the letter, Davutoglu informed his Iraqi counterpart about the military training program in progress in Bashika, duties and activities of Turkish soldiers and current developments about the matter, the prime ministry's office said in a statement. Davutoglu said that Tur-



key is committed to the integrity and sovereignty of Iraq and that "Turkey will not take a step against this principle." He said Ankara will continue to support Iraq in the fight against the Islamic State (IS) terrorist

organization. "We want to further and deepen our coordination with the Iraqi government in the fight against terror," he said. On Saturday, Iraq summoned the Turkish ambassador to demand an immediate withdrawal of

Turkish troops from the IS-controlled city of Mosul. Earlier, Iraqi President Fuad Masoum rejected the Turkish move as a violation of international law and Iraqi sovereignty. (Xinhua)

## Yemeni Parties to Start new Peace Talks soon: Special Envoy

GENEVA - Various stakeholders in Yemen will start a new round of peace talks in Switzerland on 15 December for a series of face-to-face consultations, said UN Secretary-General's special envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed on Monday. According to the envoy, these consultations will seek to establish a permanent and comprehensive ceasefire and secure improvements to the



humanitarian situation and a return to a peaceful and orderly political transition. "Only a political

solution will end the crisis in Yemen," the envoy said during a press briefing here in Geneva,

adding that the only way to end the suffering of the Yemeni people and... (More on P4)... (21)

## Japan to Enhance Counterterrorism Cooperation with US

TOKYO - The Japanese government said on Monday that it would enhance its cooperation with the United States and step up its own counter-terrorism measures following a shooting in southern California that killed 14 people. Japan's top government spokesperson Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga told a news conference that in unison with the U.S. and in twine with the international community, Japan would continue to tackle terrorism and remain intolerant to acts of terrorism in all circumstances. "Our country will continue efforts to prevent terrorism in close cooperation with the United States and the international



community," said Suga in an official response to the latest attacks in the U.S. and President Barack Obama's denunciation of the attacks. "Japan expresses its solidarity with the U.S. government and people. Terrorism must never be tolerated for any reason and we resolutely condemn it," Suga said, before offering his con-

lences to the the victims and families of the shooting spree. After pledging to bolster Japan's own counter-terrorism measures and ensure that the lives of Japanese citizens are protected from terrorist threats at home and abroad, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said on Monday that a Counter-terrorism... (More on P4)... (22)

## Russia Expects Iran Nuclear Deal to be Implemented in January

VIENNA - Russia's envoy to the U.N.'s nuclear regulatory agency said on Monday he expected a historic nuclear deal between Iran and world powers to be implemented in January, leading to sanctions being lifted on Tehran. Under the deal, Iran must scale back its nuclear program, including its stockpile of low-enriched uranium, which it plans to do via a swap for non-enriched forms of uranium with Russia. That swap will be done before the end of the year, Russia's envoy to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna, Vladimir Voronkov, told reporters in Vienna. Iran has made it a precondition for fulfilling all its promises under the July agreement that the board of governors of the IAEA formally close an inquiry into Iran's nuclear past with a resolution on Dec. 15. "We hope by the end of the day this draft resolution will be distributed for all member states of IAEA," Voronkov said after meeting envoys from the United States, China, France, Britain, Germany, the European Union and Iran in Vienna. When asked whether he expects Iran to be satisfied with the resolution, he said "It looks like it." The IAEA report on Iran's nuclear past, which was issued last week, strongly suggested Tehran had a coordinated nuclear weapons program before 2003, but, in a sign of the shift in ties since July, Western diplomats showed no concern. (Reuters)

## Cambodian FM Explains Political Situation to new U.S. Ambassador

PHNOM PENH - Cambodian Foreign Minister Hor Namhong on Monday explained the recent ouster of deputy opposition leader as the parliament's 1st vice president and the arrest warrant for opposition leader to new U.S. ambassador William Heidt. Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Hor Namhong said Kem Sokha, deputy opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), was removed from his parliamentary post on Oct. 30 because he had defamed the government and its leaders, resorted to xenophobic and divisive rhetoric to fuel racist sentiments as well as incited people against the government. For a recent arrest warrant for CNRP leader Sam Rainsy, the minister said as a state of law, the court's verdict would be enforced and the government could not intervene in that case. Sam Rainsy is currently living in self-imposed... (More on P4)... (23)

## Italy Says to Host January Meeting of Nations Fighting Islamic State

ROME - Italy will host a meeting in Rome next month of nations that are united against Islamic State, Italian Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni said on Monday. Gentiloni told reporters the strategy against Islamic State would be discussed "in various meetings, one of these will be in Rome in a month and a half in a meeting of the anti-Daesh (Islamic State) coalition." Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi said on Sunday Italy had no intention of joining the U.S.-led coalition in attacking Islamic State targets in Syria, warning that the air campaign would only add to chaos in the region. (Reuters)

## UNICEF Warns of "Looming" Situation for Syrian Children in Harsh Winter

GENEVA - The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on Monday warned another harsh winter is looming for more than eight million Syrian children living inside the war-ravaged country or as refugees around the region and beyond. Preliminary weather forecasts indicate that this winter could be harsher than last year's with temperatures in some mountainous areas dropping to as low as minus 13 degrees Celsius

during the coldest days of December and January. "These months are particularly brutal for children," said Dr. Peter Salama, UNICEF Regional Director for the Middle East and North Africa. "They are at higher risk of developing respiratory infections in the cold weather, and tragically they are also in danger when families burn plastic or other toxic materials inside their shelters to keep warm." According to... (More on P4)... (24)

## Neighbor News

### China to Host 14th SCO Prime Ministers' Meeting

BEIJING - China will host the 14th Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) prime ministers' meeting in Zhengzhou, capital of the central Henan Province next Monday and Tuesday. The meeting will focus on cooperation in economy and trade, transport and people-to-people exchanges, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said on Monday in Beijing. China hopes to identify with all SCO members the most pressing tasks of regional cooperation,

Hua said. At the invitation of Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, government leaders from the six member states of the SCO, including Kazakhstan's Prime Minister Karim Masimov, Kyrgyz Prime Minister Temir Sariyev, Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev, Tajik Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda, and First Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Rustam Azimov will attend the meeting. Aside from the six member states, government leaders from... (More on P4)... (25)

### All Iranian Authorities Should be Accountable: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani says all Iranian authorities, without any exception, should be held accountable to the nation based on their responsibilities. "Nobody should regard themselves as an exception to being questioned by the [Iranian] nation, and all [officials] should be proud of people's questioning and of being accountable to the people," Rouhani said. The president made the remark while addressing a Monday gathering of students at Tehran's Sharif University of Technology marking National University Student's Day. The day honors the anniversary of the deaths of three Tehran University students killed by the former Pahlavi regime's police force on December 7, 1953. The students were protesting a coup supported by the American and British governments that toppled Iran's democratically elected Prime Minister Mohammad Mosaddeq earlier that year. Rouhani also noted that all Iranian officials, whether directly or indirectly, have been elected by the people's vote. The president further called for consensus on various issues, including national sovereignty and national interests. (PressTV)

### Govt. will Not Compromise on Karachi's Law and Order: Nawaz

KARACHI - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif and Chief of Army Staff General Raheel Sharif visited Karachi Monday to sort out the issue of the Rangers' deployment in the provincial capital city as the term of the paramilitary force's operation expired two days earlier. The law and order situation of Karachi as well as the rest of Sindh also came under discussion. While chairing a high-level meeting at Governor House, Nawaz Sharif said, "There will be no compromise on the law and order situation of Karachi."

The meeting was attended by General Raheel Sharif, Corps Commander Karachi Lt Gen Naveed Mukhtar, Director General Rangers Sindh Major General Bilal Akbar, Chief Minister Sindh Qaim Ali Shah, Federal Interior Minister Sindh Chaudhry Nisar, Defence Minister Khawaja Asif, Inspector General Sindh Ghulam Haider Jamali, Commissioner Karachi Shoaib Ahmed Siddiqui, Provincial Finance Minister Murad Ali Shah, Sindh Home Minister Suhail Anwar Siyal and Home Secretary Sindh. (Agencies)

### ADB to Disburse \$60 Mln to Tajikistan for Supporting Investment Climate

DUSHANBE - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved \$60 million in budget support assistance to support investment climate reforms in Tajikistan, the organization said in a press release on Monday. "The Asian Development Bank has approved \$60 million in budget support assistance for the first phase of a program to expand economic opportunities, develop the private sector, and attract investments to Tajikistan," the report said. "ADB's long-term assistance and technical advice gives the government the support it needs to introduce structural reforms that can help businesses set up and expand their

production. This creates better paid jobs," Financial Sector Specialist in ADB's Central and West Asia Department Ruben Barreto was quoted as saying. According to Barreto, "the program is divided into three phases and is due for completion in 2019," with financing for the first phase including a \$53.4 million grant and a \$6.6 million concessional loan from the Asian Development Fund. "The resources will be disbursed in a single tranche to the Government of Tajikistan upon compliance with policy actions. The State Committee on Investments and State Property Management is the executing agency for the program," he added. (TASS)