BAGHDAD - U.S. forces have begun reducing their numbers in Iraq after Afghan authorities declared "victory" over Islamic State, an Iraqi government spokesman said on Monday. Iraqis backed by a US-led international coalition last year captured all the territory that fell under IS control and by September 2015, the IS leadership was weakened. But the war has continued.

German Parties Make Final Push for Coalition Deal

BERLIN - Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservative and the center-left Social Democrats (SPD) recommenced their efforts on Monday to hammer out compromises on healthcare and labor policy, two stumbling blocks in talks to form a "grand coalition." Merkel on Sunday urged the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) to meet the conservative coalition's demands.

"It's going to work out," the SPD's Andrea Nahles said on arrival for Monday's negotiations at a hotel outside Berlin. A second SPD negotiator, Karl-Ludwig Kaemmerer, keeping the powder dry for now.

"We are not prepared to take responsibility for the political situation in the country," he told the Spiegel online, adding that "we need to talk variant scenarios." The parties plan to present a final coalition agreement on Tuesday (Tuesday).

UK Judges Block EU's Plan to extradition of Alleged Hacker Lauri Love

LONDON - British judges on Monday rejected a UK request for the extradition of hacker Lauri Love to the US, bucking years of political and media pressure.

"I am not bringing in the British justice system to second-guess the American justice system," a judge said, announcing the judgment in his courtroom in London.

Swiss President Says Rohingyas Return Must Be Voluntary

Switzerland on Tuesday said it had begun the most serious stage of efforts to increase immigration from Myanmar to Switzerland, as a first step in its efforts to return to the country hundreds of thousands of exiled Rohingyas.

Staate for alleged baddie hacking into the networks of the US, the UK, Germany and other countries in 2012 and 2013.

The 33-year-old Love, who was recently released from jail in the UK where he was held pending extradition, was convicted of hacking NASA in March 2016.

UK: More than a million new homes to be built

The UK government, as it unveiled details of a new homes policy on Monday, said it aimed to build more than a million new homes over the next decade.

"We will ensure that the quality of the next generation of housing is the best ever," said Communities Secretary Greg Clark.

Turkmenistan Opens Visa Center for Tourists in China

ASHGABAT - Turkey's state tourism office on Monday opened a visa service center in China to facilitate the entry of tourists. The center is designed to improve the experience of Chinese tourists and compiles the form of consulta- tions, sending and receiving documents for obtaining an extension and for temporary entry to Turkmenistan. The ceremony also held the opening of the Turkmenistan pavilion at the International Tourism Fair in China.

Swiss Presidentisl Pitches Arms Sales to China's Backyard

BEIJING - The top US diplomat negotiating China's arms deal said Monday that the US would be promoting American companies at the largest air show in China, where China's military is staging its biggest air show.

US-China military relations have been tense in recent years, with the US and China both deploying their latest fighter jets in Asia.

"We are very much engaged in overflight arrangements and all sorts of things. We are very much engaged in military-to-military contacts," said Matt Pottinger, the US deputy under secretary of defense for Asia and the Pacific.

Deputy Foreign Minister Sergey Ryabkov told Izvestia that the雪dened that there are still significant hurdles to doing so, including the lack of an agreement on the legal framework. Ryabkov also noted that the EU had already given the green light to the dispensation of the law, which would be reviewed by the European Parliament.

The majority of the EU countries have already approved the dispensation of the law, which is expected to come into force in 2016.