

Iran Nuclear Agreement Formally Announced, Kerry says a Good Deal

VIENNA - Iran and six world major countries have adopted an agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue, European Union (EU) foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini formally announced here on Tuesday. "What we are announcing today is not just a deal, it is a good deal ... today is a historical day," Mogherini told a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif. Ensuring "Iran's nuclear program will be exclusively peaceful," the two diplomats said "Iran



confirms that Iran under no circumstances will seek or acquire nuclear weapons." The nuclear deal reached with the six world major countries will help build confidence, Zarif said. "The deal will help building confidence between Iran and the powers," Zarif said. Earlier on Tuesday, a diplomatic source confirmed that the historic agreement had been reached between Iran and the six world major countries. The comprehensive agreement was ... (More on P4)... (19)

Obama Urges U.S. Congress to Ratify Iran Nuclear Deal

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama Tuesday urged the U.S. Congress to ratify the deal reached over the Iranian nuclear issue between Iran and six major world powers, and threatened to veto if Congress prevented the deal's successful implementation. The comprehensive agreement was clinched between Iran and the P5 Plus One group -- Britain, China, France, Rus-



sia and the United States plus Germany -- after more than two weeks of bargaining in Austria's capital, Vienna. "I believe it would be irresponsible to walk away from the deal, but on such a tough

issue, it is important that the American people and the representatives in Congress get a full opportunity to review the deal," Obama said in an early-morning address at the White House. "I am confident that this deal will meet the national security interests of the United States and our allies, so I will veto any legislation that prevents the successful implementation of this deal." (Xinhua)

France's Hollande Hails "Important" Iran Nuclear Deal

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande on Tuesday said the nuclear deal reached after long talks between Iran and six major countries was very "important" for the entire world's security. Hollande, speaking to TF1 and France2 in a traditional interview of the National Day, noted that the deal reached after 12 years of negotiations showed that "the world is moving."

"France was very firm. My concern was to prevent nuclear proliferation to prevent Iran from having nuclear weapons. This would have been a risk to the entire world," the president added. "Iran accepted to reduce its nuclear capacities. But we have to verify that. We can lift sanctions but we can impose them again if there will be the slightest breach," he stressed. (Xinhua)

Israel "Not Bound" By Iran Nuclear Deal: Netanyahu

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned on Tuesday the nuclear deal reached with Iran, saying Israel is not obliged to adhere to the deal and will act to defend itself.



"we will always defend ourselves." Netanyahu slammed the agreement as a "stunning historic mistake," noting that the

international community "attempted to prevent a rogue regime from acquiring nuclear weapons" but failed. (Xinhua)

Turkey to Train Iraqi Police Forces

ANKARA - Turkey will provide training for Iraqi police as part of the cooperation in fighting the Islamic State (IS) threat in the neighboring country, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said on Tuesday.

Speaking at a joint press conference with visiting Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim al-Jaafari in Ankara, Cavusoglu pledged Turkey's continuous support to Iraq in the fight against the IS, an al-Qaida offshoot which



took control of some of the country's predominantly Sunni provinces. Cavusoglu recalled that Turkey has provided training for more than 1,600 Kurdish Peshmerga forces as well as

more than 1,500 national guards in Mosul, along with providing military equipment to the Iraqi army, as part of the efforts to defeat the IS in Iraq. Turkey has also set ... (More on P4)... (20)

IMF Promises More Concessional Financing for Poorest Countries

ADDIS ABABA - A top official of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on Monday said the institution will expand access to all its concessional facilities by 50 percent, and offer more concessional financing for the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the world. The move is part of IMF's support to the United Nations (UN)-led Post-2015 Development Agenda, said Zhu Min, Deputy Managing Director of the IMF, at the start of a four-day UN Conference on Financing for Development in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa. The Post-2015 Development Agenda aims to help define the future global development framework that will

succeed the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). "And we will maintain for the longer term the zero interest rate on our Rapid Credit Facility loans- for fragile states and countries hit by natural disasters," Zhu said. Under the new financing proposals, the IMF will increase access to concessional Fund resources for all Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust eligible countries, re-balance the mix of concessional to non-concessional financing towards more use of non-concessional resources and increase access to fast-disbursing concessional and non-concessional resources for countries in fragile situations. (Xinhua)

Turkey Nationalists Reject Coalition Alliance: Premier

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey's nationalist party is unwilling to join the ruling party in a coalition alliance, Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu said Tuesday after a meeting with officials of the party which was long considered its most probable partner. Davutoglu is meeting party leaders as part of his search for a coalition partnership after the ruling Islamic-rooted party lost its parliamentary majority in Turkey's June 7 elections. The prime minister was given a mandate on July 9 to form a government. He has 45 days from that date to build a coalition and if

he can't, new elections will be called. With more than a month to go before that deadline, Davutoglu told reporters after talks with Nationalist Movement Party leader Devlet Bahceli that the far-right party would prefer to remain an opposition party. Davutoglu didn't rule out, however, more talks on forming a coalition with the party in the future. The nationalist party was considered the ruling party's most natural ally because the two parties share a common religious and conservative voter base. (AP)

Britain Welcomes Historic Nuclear Deal with Iran

LONDON - British Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond on Tuesday welcomed the historic Iran nuclear deal announced in Vienna after over a decade of lengthy negotiations. "After more than a decade of tough negotiations, we have reached an historic agreement that will impose strict limits and inspections on Iran's nuclear program," Hammond said in a statement. The comprehensive agreement was stricken on Tuesday between Iran and Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States after over two weeks of bargaining talks in Austria's capital Vienna.

The text of the deal specifies key areas of the Iranian nuclear issue, including sanction relief and action plan, nuclear technology cooperation, the committee of the monitoring of the implementation, and capping of Iran's nuclear capacity, and draft of UN Security Council resolution. "Under the agreement, Iran will grant the International Atomic Energy Agency access to verify adherence to the restrictions placed on its nuclear program, giving the international community confidence that the program is, and will remain, exclusively peaceful," Hammond explained. (Xinhua)

UN Chief Hails "Historic Agreement" on Iran Nuclear Issue



UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday "warmly" welcomed "the historic agreement" reached in Vienna on the Iran nuclear issue, calling it a "testament to the value of dialogue." The secretary-general congratulated the five permanent members of the UN Security Council -- Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States -- plus Germany and Iran for reaching this agreement, said a statement issued by Ban's spokesman to re-

porters at the UN headquarters in New York City. Ban currently is in Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, to attend a UN conference on financing for development. "I know that an immense amount of work went into this, and I admire the determination and the commitment of the negotiators -- as well as the courage of the leaders who approved the deal that was so painstakingly worked out by their teams in Vienna and elsewhere," the statement said. (Xinhua)

India Welcomes Iran Nuclear Deal

NEW DELHI - India Tuesday welcomed the Iran nuclear deal struck between Teheran and six world powers. "While we wait to see the text of the agreement reached between Iran and the EU 3+3 in Vienna today, we welcome the successful conclusion of negotiations on the Iranian nuclear issue," said external affairs ministry spokesman Vikas Swarup. "India has always maintained that the issue

should be resolved peacefully through dialogue by respecting Iran's right to peaceful uses of nuclear energy while upholding the international community's strong interest in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's nuclear program," he said. "With regard to the second aspect, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has an important role, which has been underlined by the ... (More on P4)... (21)

Neighbour News

Chinese Premier Meets South African VP

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang met with South African Vice President Cyril Ramaphosa here on Tuesday, vowing to enhance cooperation with South Africa. Calling the two economies highly compatible, Li said South Africa is committed to boosting industrialization and infrastructure, while China has advanced and cost-effective assembly lines for steel, building materials and consumer products. "We hope to enhance capacity cooperation with South Africa, and carry out technology exchanges and personnel training," Li said. He also vowed to enhance cooperation with South Africa in such areas

as nuclear power, ports, offshore gas exploration and aquaculture. Ramaphosa told Li South Africa highly values its relations with China as well as Africa-China ties. South Africa hopes to learn from China's experience in industrialization and economic zone development, and facilitate bilateral cooperation in such areas as capacity, ocean economy and energy, he said. Ramaphosa also welcomed China to expand investment in South Africa. Li hailed the meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his South African counterpart Jacob Zuma last week during the 7th Summit of the BRICS in Ufa of Russia. (Xinhua)

Iran Eyes Better Ties with Neighbors after Nuclear Deal: President

TEHRAN - Iran and regional countries should revise their relations as the just-agreed upon nuclear deal will benefit Iran and its neighbors, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said Tuesday following the nuclear agreement reached between Iran and world powers.

The comprehensive agreement was reached between Iran and the P5+1 group, namely Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States plus Germany, in Austria's capital Vienna Tuesday after over two weeks of negotiations. "We are in for a new beginning, and we

urge close, sincere and brotherly relations" with regional countries, Rouhani said. He warned against what he deemed as the Israeli hype against Iran, asking regional counties "not to be deceived by the Zionist propaganda of the Israeli regime."

"Iran's power belongs to you, and we consider the security and stability of the region as importantly as ours," he said. Iran is not a threat to its neighbors, and it has not pursued weapons of mass destruction nor will it ever do so, he said. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Hopes Iran Nuclear Deal to Help Build Gas Pipeline

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan hoped on Tuesday that the landmark deal on the Iran nuclear program will remove all hurdles in building the long-awaited multi-billion gas pipeline. The Iran-Pakistan (IP) gas pipeline could not be built in spite of a series of agreements because of international sanctions on Iran. Iran and six major countries, namely China, Britain, France, Russia, the United States and Germany, on Tuesday reached an agreement in Vienna on Iran's nuclear program. The Pakistan Advisor on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz welcomed the nuclear deal, saying that his country has al-

ways emphasized the need for resolution of the nuclear dispute through dialogue. Talking to the media, Aziz expressed the confidence that after lifting of economic sanctions, "Iran would integrate with regional and global economic markets and this would benefit different countries, including Pakistan". He pointed out that before sanctions bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iran had reached 2 billion U.S. dollars which came down to just 300 million dollars. "The lifting of sanctions would also help boost bilateral trade between Pakistan and Iran," he added. (Xinhua)

Tajikistan and India to Cooperate in Trade, Agriculture, Hydropower, Defense

DUSHANBE - The Prime Minister of India Narendra Modi paid a state visit to Tajikistan on July 12 and 13 and held wide-ranging talks with Tajikistan President Emomali Rakhmon in Dushanbe on bilateral, regional and international issues. The two leaders noted that trade and economic cooperation between India and Tajikistan is below its potential and highlighted the importance of trade and investments in developing a balanced and sustainable bilateral relationship and committed to work together to overcome structural and functional issues hampering economic relations between the two countries, the press service of the Indian PM reported. The leaders mandated the

8th session of the India-Tajikistan Joint Commission on Trade, Economic, Scientific and Technical Cooperation to meet in Dushanbe this year and draw up a concise strategy to deepen trade and investment relations and identify specific steps to facilitate exchanges between the business communities. The two sides underscored the importance of improving connectivity in the region to realize the full potential of trade and commerce. Tajikistan reiterated its support to the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) which will considerably reduce transit time and cost for transportation of goods between India and Central Asia and beyond. (TCA)