

U.S. Seeking Six-Party talk for Denuclearized Korean Peninsula: Carter

SEOUL - Visiting U.S. Defense Secretary Ashton Carter said Sunday that his country is seeking to resume the long-stalled six-party talks for denuclearization on the Korean peninsula.

Carter arrived in Seoul on Sunday for his two-day visit to the country. The top U.S. military officer will hold annual defense ministers' meeting with his South Korean counterpart Han Min-Koo on Monday.

During his Sunday trip to the Joint Security Area (JSA) at the truce village of Panmunjom, Carter stressed the need for the resumption of the six-



way dialogue, including the two Koreas, China, the United States, Japan and Russia, to resolve the

nuclear issue of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Carter said that the United

State is pushing for the six-party talks for the peninsula's denuclearization, according to a pool report.

The aid-for-disarmament dialogue has been stalled since late 2008.

His comments were in

line with the agreement reached during the trilateral leadership meeting between Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, South Korean President Park Geun-hye and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

After the trilateral summit that was held in Seoul on Sunday for the first time in three and a half years, the three leaders agreed to make efforts to rapidly resume the six-party talks for the denuclearized peninsula. Carter said that the DPRK should go in a direction of reducing its nuclear development and that it should stop its nuclear development in the end. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Privatisation of PS, PIA by 2018



KARACHI - For attaining higher growth rate and boosting economy, the Pakistani government will have to go for mass-scale privatisation despite opposition, said Pakistani Federal Minister and Chairman, Privatisation Commission, Mohammad Zubair, on Saturday.

Speaking to members of the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry

(FPCCI), the minister disclosed that process of inviting Expressions of Interest (EOIs) for Faisalabad Electric Supply and Distribution Company would start from Monday.

He further said that Initial Public Offerings (IPOs) of State Life Insurance Corporation (SLIC) and 30 other state-owned entities, including SME Bank, would soon be announced. (Agencies)

Iran's Khamenei Calls for Syrian Elections to Solve Crisis

DUBAI - Iran's clerical supreme leader said elections should be held in Syria to end the civil war there and criticized foreign powers that arm and fund Syrian opposition fighters, state television reported on Sunday.

In an annual address to the Islamic Republic's top diplomats, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei also said that U.S. objectives in the Middle East were the opposite of Iran's and that negotiating with Washington on regional issues was meaningless.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif attended the meeting after returning from inconclusive talks with

world powers in Vienna on Friday aimed at finding a solution to the war, the first time Iran had participated in such talks.

"The solution to the Syrian question is elections, and for this it is necessary to stop military and financial aid to the opposition," several state media outlets quoted Khamenei as saying.

Iran has backed President Bashar al-Assad throughout Syria's conflict and sent troops to assist his army. Other regional powers, including Iran's rival Saudi Arabia, support a variety of armed rebel factions. The war, in

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Anti-Terror Efforts must be Coordinated with Syrian Gov't : Syria FM

DAMASCUS - Syrian Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem said on Monday that any effort to counter terrorism in Syria without coordination with the Syrian government is a violation to the UN charters, according to the state news agency SANA.

Al-Moallem made the remarks during his meeting with the visiting UN envoy to Syria Staffan de Mistura and just a couple of days after the U.S. said it was sending troops to aid the Syrian rebels in their fight against the Islamic State (IS) group in northern Syria.

The head of the Syrian diplomacy discussed with Mistura the outcome of the Vienna meeting on the Syrian crisis, under-



scoring the importance of some points while expressing astonishment over the fact that the final communique didn't include any binding resolutions for the countries that still support the terror groups in Syria, according to SANA. He said the UN resolutions pertaining countering terror should

be implemented in order for a ceasefire to be successful, referring to one of the items of the Vienna statement, which states that a ceasefire should be established in Syria. Meanwhile, al-Moallem stressed the Syrian government will continue to fight the terror groups, highlighting the importance of the role of the

Russian airstrikes, and the Iranian and the Lebanese Hezbollah cooperation in the anti-terror effort. At the end of the meeting, al-Moallem reaffirmed to Mistura the Syrian government's cooperation with the UN efforts in countering terrorists and launching dialogue among the Syrians. (Xinhua)

UN Expects Yemen talks by Mid-November: Envoy

MANAMA - The U.N. special envoy to Yemen said on Sunday he expects talks between its warring parties to begin by mid-November, eight months after the start of a messy civil war that has killed thousands and caused a humanitarian crisis. The conflict pits the Iran-allied Houthi militia and army units loyal to former president Ali Abdullah Saleh against armed groups who support exiled President Abd-Rabbu Mansour Hadi alongside a Saudi-led Arab coalition. "I expect that before mid-November, God willing, a date will be specified and I expect that the dialogue must begin be-



fore mid-November, as a minimum, 15 November," U.N. envoy Ismail Ould-Cheikh Ahmed told Reuters in Bahrain. All major combatants have publicly agreed to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 2216, which calls on

Houthi and Saleh forces to withdraw from main cities and surrender arms captured from Yemeni government forces. However, while Hadi and the coalition have previously demanded that this happen before talks begin, the

Houthis and Saleh want talks to address mechanism for Resolution 2216 to be implemented. Discussions between the United Nations and the Houthis have taken place already in Oman's capital Muscat. (Reuters)

UN Peace Envoy in Damascus to Brief Government on Vienna talks

DAMASCUS - UN peace envoy Staffan de Mistura met with Syrian Foreign Minister Walid Muallem on Sunday in Damascus to discuss ongoing international talks on Syria's four-year war, state media said.

The diplomat presented Muallem with a "detailed report" of talks between global powers as well as the United Nations and the European Union last week in Vienna, state news agency SANA reported.

Syria's state television said Muallem had "expressed to... de Mistura

the importance of numerous points" in the statement released at the end of the Vienna talks.

But the Syrian foreign minister said he was "surprised that the statement did not include a commitment by known backers of terrorism" to stop supporting extremist groups, SANA reported.

Representatives from the UN and EU and top diplomats from 17 countries gathered on Friday in Vienna to narrow their divisions over the war which

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Thirteen Migrants, Including Six Children, Drown off Greece

ATHENS - At least 13 migrants, six of them children, drowned as two boats making the hazardous crossing from Turkey capsized in the Aegean Sea off Greece on Sunday, the coastguard said.

The first tragedy occurred off the island of Samos when a boat overturned just 20 metres (yards) from shore. Ten bodies - including six children, four of them babies - were found in the vessel's cabin while that of a girl was washed up on the island, where dozens of refugees have perished trying to reach Europe in recent days.

Two others were still missing with coastguards saying 15 were plucked from the water.

A boat from the European border agency Frontex also recovered two bodies near the island of Farmakonisi, near Samos, the coastguard said.

Frontex also rescued three others, who said their boat was carrying 15 people when it sank in Turkish waters.

Greek authorities and the Turkish coastguard "continue to search the zone to find the migrants who disappeared in the sinking, which probably took place off the Turkish coast," a representative of the Greek coastguard's press office told AFP. The new sinkings add to a string of migrant... (More on P4)... (15)

Turkish, U.S. Air Strikes Kill more than 50 IS Militants in Syria: Agency



ISTANBUL - Air strikes by Turkish and U.S. aircraft in Syria on Saturday killed more than 50 Islamic State militants and wounded around 30, state-run Anadolu Agency quoted security sources as saying on Sunday.

A senior government official told Reuters on Saturday that Turkish jets had bombed Islamic State targets in Syria, as before Turks prepared to vote in Sunday's parliamentary election.

Six Turkish F-16 jets which took off from the Incirlik base in southern Turkey had been involved in the air strikes between 0900-1400 GMT on Saturday, as well as a drone belonging to the coalition, Anadolu said. It said the operation destroyed eight Islamic State targets around 5 km inside the Syrian border near the Turkish province of Kilis. The operation was backed up by Turkmen forces on the ground in Syria, it

added. Turkey vowed to take a more active role in combating Islamic State in July, as part of a multi-pronged offensive which also saw them ramp up attacks on Kurdish militants. Since then, the Turkish military has primarily concentrated on hitting its old foe, the outlawed Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), although Turkish airbases have also been used by U.S.-led coalition jets to hit IS targets in northern Syria. (Reuters)

World Leaders Extend Condolences over Russian Plane Crash in Egypt

BEIJING - World leaders have expressed sincere condolences over the crash of a Russian airliner in Egypt on Saturday which killed all the 224 people onboard. Chinese President Xi Jinping sent a message of condolences on Sunday to his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, extending profound condolences to the victims of the crash and expressed sincere sympathies to the families of the victims. At the current sorrowful moment for the Russian people, the Chinese people firmly stand side by side with them, Xi said. Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, who was in Seoul, South Korea to attend the sixth China-Japan-South Korea leaders' meeting, also sent a message of condolences on Sunday to his Russian counterpart Dmitry Medvedev. U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Saturday extended the "deepest condolences" to Russia over the tragic plane crash, a U.S. State Department statement said. While speaking to Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov "to express deepest condolences to the families and friends of those killed in the crash in Egypt of Kogalymavia Flight 9268," Kerry also offered... (More on P4)... (16)

French President Heading to China to Promote Climate talks

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande hopes to use a state visit to China to boost difficult climate negotiations a month before a U.N. conference in Paris aimed at slowing global warming. China, the most populous country and the biggest emitter of climate-warming greenhouse gases in the world, has promised it will try to cap its rising emissions before 2030 as part of its national pledge ahead of the Paris conference. Hollande says he intends to launch a bilateral appeal with Chinese President Xi Jinping "to make the climate conference a success." France is notably trying to get China's approval of a mechanism that would require countries to step up their emissions cuts over time.

This would be "a key" to success of the U.N. climate talks, a French diplomatic official said, because the current national pledges won't be enough to achieve the goal of keeping the rise in global temperatures below 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) between pre-industrial times and the end of the century. China has "a leading role" in influencing other developing countries on this issue, the diplomat said. France is proposing to update those emissions targets automatically every five years, but the rules have yet to be defined. The official spoke anonymously because discussions on the content of the French-Chinese bilateral declaration were still ongoing. (AP)