

# Russia Sees Possible Int'l Coalition Against IS: Diplomat

PARIS - An international anti-IS coalition is still possible despite rising tension between Moscow and Ankara after the downing of a Russian warplane, a Russian diplomat said Wednesday.

"A coalition against Daesh (Arabic acronym for the Islamic States) is still possible to plan together strikes and form a common general staff with France, the United States and even with the Turkish if they want," Alexander Orlov, Russian ambassador to France told Europe 1 radio. "We are going to talk again with Turkey. It's our neighbor and it's an important one," he said in an obviously reconciliatory note.

Turkey on Tuesday shot down a Russian Su-24 on the Syrian border, saying the plane had violated its air space. Moscow has warned Turkey of serious consequences. (Xinhua)



## Ukraine Halts Russian Gas Purchases, closes its Airspace

KIEV - Tensions between Moscow and Kiev ratcheted up further Wednesday as Ukraine decided to stop buying gas from Russia and closed its airspace to its giant eastern neighbor's airlines. The two measures not only underscore the acrimonious nature of the former Soviet countries' relations but also highlight how difficult one of Europe's deadliest crises since the Balkans Wars of the 1990s may be to resolve. Ukrainian Prime Minister Arseniy Yatsenyuk told a televised cabinet meeting that the flight ban was justified because "Russia might use Ukrainian airspace to stage provocations". "This is an issue of our country's national security -- a response to the Russian Federation and its aggressive actions." Ukraine and its Western allies accuse Moscow of orchestrating and supporting the pro-Russian revolt in the east to avenge last year's ouster of Kiev's Kremlin-backed president and the new government's decision to align itself with the West. Kiev on October 25 barred most Russian airlines from flying into Ukraine -- a decision that prompted immediate...

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## Mideast Violence Could 'Spin out of Control': Kerry

BOSTON - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that violence between Israelis and Palestinians could "spin out of control" unless they take immediate steps to ease tensions. Kerry is back in the United States after visiting Israel and the West Bank for the first time in more than a year. He says the U.S. is pressing both sides to show a "genuine commitment" to a two-state peace solution. He tells reporters after land-

ing in Boston on Wednesday that the situation is close to reaching "a pivotal point" after months of violent confrontations. Kerry says the sides are facing "important decisions" and the U.S. hopes they make choices that will "advance the prospects for lasting peace." On Tuesday, Kerry met separately with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. (AP)

## Germany to Send Troops to Mali to Help Fight IS

BERLIN - Germany will send up to 650 soldiers to Mali for peacekeeping missions, including support in the fight against the Islamic State (IS), German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen said Wednesday. The minister's announcement came less than two weeks after the terrorist attacks in Paris that killed 130 people and less than one week after gunmen stormed a hotel in Mali's capital of Bam-

ako, killing 19. Von der Leyen said the German soldiers would support the French-led peacekeeping mission in Mali, in particular in the areas of logistics and reconnaissance. The decision, she added, is aimed to help relieve pressure on France, as it is strained in its fight against the IS. The mandate will be soon submitted to the German parliament for approval. The attacks in Paris have brought France to the



forefront of the global fight against terrorism. France has thousands of troops in Mali, a former colony, but last week's hostage crisis in Bamako has stoked fears that West African country is still unable to prevent terrorist groups from operating within its borders. (Xinhua)

## EU Sounds Alarm as Internal Barriers Rise in Refugee Crisis

BRUSSELS - The European Union's chief executive warned on Wednesday that the survival of Europe's "partially comatose" open border travel zone and its single currency were both at risk if member nations continue erecting internal barriers to keep out refugees.

European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker drew a direct link between the two key achievements of EU integration, telling the European Parliament the euro would be jeopardized if the Schengen passport-free travel sys-

tem unravels. "If the spirit of Schengen leaves our lands and our hearts, we will lose more than Schengen. A single currency makes no sense if Schengen falls. It is one of the keystones of European construction," Juncker said.

While there is no legal connection between the Schengen zone, which has 22 EU members and four from outside the bloc, and the 19-member euro zone, Juncker's warning reflected growing concern in Brussels that intra-EU tensions over migrants could reverse the post-World



War Two war drive for European unity. He sounded the alarm as some 1,500 migrants remained trapped in northern Greece unable to cross the border into Macedonia after Western Balkans countries overwhelmed by the refugee flow began limiting their intake to Syrians, Afghans and Iraqis. (Reuters)

## Spain Not Offering Extra Military Aid to France for the Moment

MADRID - Spain's Secretary of State for Parliamentary Relations (relaciones con las Cortes) Jose Luis Ayllon on Tuesday night ruled out Spain offering any further military aid in the fight against terrorism in the near future.

Speaking on Spanish National Radio Station (RNE), Ayllon explained that any decision to allocate more troops to directly combat Daesh (the Islamic State) or to areas where they could free up French troops to fight in Syria was clearly stipulated under Spain's "Law for National Defense." "The government has to



make a proposal, which then has to be passed in the 'Cortes' (Parliament) which would have to meet and vote if the proposal was made. However, if the government doesn't make a proposal they won't meet," he said. Ayllon then detailed that

Spain was taking an active part in European and United Nations peacekeeping operations with "2,200 people outside of Spain at the moment in different missions," adding, "the Spanish government has not made any... (More on P4)... (18)

## France to Deploy nearly 11,000 Police for Climate Summit



PARIS - France will deploy nearly 11,000 police for the climate summit in Paris, which begins a little more than two weeks after devastating attacks, the interior minister said Wednesday. Bernard Cazeneuve said 8,000 police and gendarmes would be posted to carry out border checks and 2,800 would be deployed at the conference venue north of Paris. He said 120,000 police and troops had already been mobilized across France since the attacks on November 13, which have triggered a state of emergency that will remain in place until February. A total of 147 world leaders are due to attend the start of the UN conference, leading Paris authorities to shut down major roads into the capital on Sunday and Monday and make public transport free of charge.

With the country on high alert, the government has also banned major demonstrations by environmental groups that were planned for this Sunday and December 12. Cazeneuve welcomed the cooperation of the march organizers, saying they had shown "a remarkable spirit of responsibility". (AFP)

## India Claims no Nepali Nationals Injured by Indian Border Force Bullets

KATHMANDU - India has claimed that no Nepali nationals were injured in firing by the Indian border force in the Nepal's Terai region on Wednesday. In a press statement on Wednesday evening, the Indian Embassy in Kathmandu said that news reports regarding firing by Seema-Suraksha Bal (SSB) are inaccurate. Earlier, Nepali government officials said that four Nepali nationals were injured when the armed Indian border force opened fire Wednesday morning in Sunsari district of Nepal bordering India. Nepal's Home Ministry Spokesman Laxmi Prasad Dhakal told Xinhua that a group of Indian border force personnel entered the Nepali territory and opened fire against the four Nepali nationals. Witnesses of the incident and the victims also told the Nepali government officials that the Indian border force... (More on P4)... (20)

## All People must Have ID on Trips Abroad: Norway

ZAGREB - The latest on the mass movement of asylum seekers and others seeking refuge in Europe. All times local: Norwegian police have advised citizens to carry valid identity papers on all trips abroad, following a government decision to start border controls on Thursday. The Police Directorate says Wednesday all travelers arriving or leaving the country, including to and from neighboring Sweden, Finland and Denmark, must have valid ID on them. The police agency also says people moving about in border regions should also carry proof of their identity. The new regulations were announced after... (More on P4)... (21)

## Neighbor News

### China-CEE Cooperation Gets on Fast Track

SUZHOU - Heads of governments from central and eastern Europe (CEE) nations got to experience the "China speed" firsthand on Wednesday when, accompanied by Premier Li Keqiang, they boarded China's most advanced bullet train. The CRH380A has a maximum speed of 486 kilometers per hour. The 25-minute trip took the leaders from the garden city of Suzhou to financial hub of Shanghai, 100 kilometers away, speeding past industrial parks and facto-

ries much of where laid bare farmlands just a decade ago. At that speed, the train would take less than 20 hours to travel from Beijing to any of the leaders' hometowns. Flags of China and 16 CEE countries and slogans that read "16+1>17" were painted on the body of the 16-carriage train, highlighting cooperation and development between China and the 16 countries which just completed an annual summit meeting in Suzhou, east China. "The trip mirrors... (More on P4)... (22)

### Pakistani PM to Attend Commonwealth Summit in Malta

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will pay an official visit to Malta to participate in the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting (CHOGM) on Nov. 27-29 in Malta.

The CHOGM is held every two years. The theme for this year's meeting is Adding Global Value.

The prime minister will also attend a banquet hosted by the British Queen and another banquet by the prime minister of Malta, the foreign ministry said in Islamabad.

Besides attending the two-day Commonwealth meeting, the prime minister will also meet with several world leaders on the sidelines of this summit to discuss bilateral and global is-

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sues with them, a statement said. Pakistan is one of the eight founding members of the Commonwealth, and is enhancing its relations with the organization.

This summit is viewed as particularly important as the program includes two sessions that would discuss violent extremism and radicalism, sustainable development goals and migration.

A special session will be dedicated to climate change, which will issue the leaders' statement on climate action. The leaders will also elect the new secretary general of CHOGM for the next four-year term.

Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena will hand over the chairmanship to Malta. (Xinhua)

### Tajik Parliament Legalizes Blocking Internet, Telephone Service

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's parliament on Wednesday legalized blocking the Internet and telephone system during "counterterrorism operations" in the Central Asian nation. Tajik lawmakers adopted the amendments to the Law on Combating Terrorism on November 25.

Access to a number of social-networking and other websites -- including Facebook, Twitter, RFE/RL's Tajik- and Russian-language websites and other news portals -- has been disrupted several times in

recent years in Tajikistan.

Restricted access to the Internet resources was reported on days when opposition groups planned rallies or when security forces were involved in operations against alleged terrorists.

U.S. and EU officials have raised concerns both over overall blockage of the Internet and over blockage of access to individual sites. Tajik officials have always said Internet disruptions were caused by technical problems. (Agencies)

### Russia to Begin Delivery of S-300 Missile System to Iran this Year: Kremlin

MOSCOW - A Russian presidential aide confirmed on Wednesday that Moscow will begin to deliver the modernized S-300 missile defense systems to Teheran this year.

"The contract has been signed. I hope that some parts will be supplied this year; some will be supplied next year," Vladimir Kozhin was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency in the central Russian city of Yekaterinburg. Moscow and Teheran signed an 800-million-U.S. dollar contract in 2007 to supply Iran with five S-300 systems. In September 2010, then Russian President Dmit-

ry Medvedev canceled the contract to follow a resolution of the UN Security Council, which banned the supply of conventional weapons to Iran.

Iran, in response, submitted a 4-billion-U.S. dollar claim against Russia to an international arbitration court in Geneva.

In early April this year, Russian President Vladimir Putin signed a decree to lift the ban on sales of S-300 anti-aircraft missile systems after Iran and six world powers, including Russia, reached a framework accord on parameters of Iran's controversial nuclear program. (Xinhua)

## Canadian PM Touches down in Britain to Meet Queen

LONDON - New Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau touched down Wednesday for his first visit to Britain since his election, with meetings with his British counterpart and Queen Elizabeth II. Trudeau flew in with his wife Sophie and children in a stopover visit on which he will meet Prime Minister David Cameron before he goes to Malta for a meeting of the Commonwealth heads of government later this week. The Liberal prime minister, whose election earlier this month ended almost a decade of Conservative rule, is to meet with Queen

Elizabeth, who is also queen of Canada, at Buckingham Palace. Trudeau's new government removed the queen's portrait from its foreign affairs department lobby after the election, hanging two paintings by a Quebec artist in its place. The ministry said the change, a move away from the monarchist symbolism of the previous Tory government, was intended to "showcase Canada". Trudeau's father also served as prime minister and is remembered for being captured doing a pirouette behind the queen by a photo... (More on P4)... (19)