

Syrian Rebels to Russia: Stop Bombing Us

LONDON - An alliance of Free Syrian Army-related insurgent groups said on Monday it was skeptical about a Russian proposal to help rebels, and that Moscow must stop bombing rebels and civilians and withdraw its support for President Bashar al-Assad. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday the Russian air force, which has been bombing insurgents in Syria since Sept. 30, would be ready to help the "patriotic" Syrian opposition.

"Their words are not like their actions. How can we talk to them while



they are hitting us?" Isam al-Rayyes, spokesman for the Southern Front of the Free Syrian Army, told Reuters. Russian warplanes have bombed a number of FSA-affiliated groups in

northern areas of Syria since intervening in the war on the side of Assad. The Russian air force is providing air cover for several major ground offensives being waged by the Syrian army and allied Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah fighters. Rayyes added that there was no contact between the rebels and the Russians, clarifying an earlier remark to the BBC that the rebels had not turned down a Russian offer. "There is no offer, there is no communication," Rayyes said.

"We don't need the help ... (More on P4)... (17)

U.S. Condemns Violence at Cambodian Parliament

PHNOM PENH - The United States Embassy to Cambodia on Monday condemned violence during a demonstration outside the National Assembly that left two opposition lawmakers seriously injured. "The U.S. embassy is aware of reports that two Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP) politicians were assaulted outside of the National Assembly," the embassy said in a statement. "Exercising the freedoms of assembly and speech do not justify violence and we condemn these actions."

The statement called on the authorities to carry out a thorough and transparent investigation into these attacks, to maintain

order at the National Assembly, and to ensure the safety of politicians from all parties. Facebook, a very popular social media here, was quickly inundated with the pictures of the bloodied lawmakers and their damaged cars. CNRP said in a statement that its lawmakers NhayChamroen and Kong Sakphea were badly beaten by protesters outside the parliament at noon on Monday during a protest demanding that CNRP deputy leader Kem Sokha step down as the parliament's first vice president. Protesters accused Kem Sokha of inciting unrest and racial hatred through his exaggerated remarks. (Xinhua)

World Catholic Leaders Appeal for Bold Climate Change Agreement

VATICAN CITY - Roman Catholic leaders from around the world made an unprecedented joint appeal on Monday to a forthcoming U.N. conference on climate change to produce "a truly transformational" agreement to stem global warming. The Catholic cardinals, patriarchs and bishops signed the appeal in the Vatican, saying climate change had to address social justice and that any agreement must be fair and ensure the poor and most vulnerable were not sold short. Their 10-point document was based on Pope Francis's landmark encyclical last June, called "Laudato Si", which demanded urgent action to save the planet from environmental



ruin. It again put the 1.2 billion-member Catholic Church in the front line of the debate over the causes of climate change, an active role that some Catholic conservatives, including U.S. Republican presidential candidate Jeb Bush, have criticized. The document said "re-

liable scientific evidence" suggests global warming is the result of "unrestrained human activity", current models of progress and development, and excessive reliance on fossil fuels. Climate change skeptics argue that man's role in global warming has not been conclusively

proved. "The pope and Catholic Bishops from five continents, sensitive to the damage caused, appeal for a drastic reduction in the emission of carbon dioxide and other toxic gases," said the appeal to the conference, which meets in Paris from Nov. 30 to Dec. 11. (Reuters)

More than 11,000 Refugees Arrive in S. Germany over Weekend

MUNICH - Over the past weekend alone, more than 11,000 refugees came to the southern German state of Bavaria, federal German police said on Monday.

Those refugees went over the border from Austria to the Bavarian district of Lower Bavaria, Bavarian Radio cited a spokesman of federal police as saying. Some of the refugees have had to spend the night outdoors, he said, adding that the federal police were doing "what we can." According to the



spokesman, it is now necessary to bring refugees from the border regions to other accommodations in order to make places free for refugees who newly came across the border. "We expect that we will have a problem. We are not able to handle the current (refugee) onrush," the spokesman said. (Xinhua)

Refugees Entering Slovenia Scoring Nearly 10,000 Sunday

LJUBLJANA - Slovenian police officially counted that almost 10,000 refugees entered the Slovenian territory on Sunday, fewer than the 15,000 police feared would arrive but still the second highest daily number since the latest refugee wave began arriving on Oct. 17.

Two more groups numbering 1,530 and 1,250, respectively, entered the country at Rigonce of the eastern check point bordering Croatia early Monday morning, bringing the total number of arrivals so far to almost 75,000, the

Slovenian Press Agency (STA) reported, citing state police statistics.

The figures came after the Slovenian Interior Ministry warned on Sunday that the influx was unsustainable, with resources stretched to the limit and law enforcement and aid workers exhausted.

At a special European Union-Balkan migrations summit on Sunday, Slovenia received the pledge of reinforcements including 400 police officers in a week, as well as bilateral aid in the form of equipment. (Xinhua)

Russia Hits Record 94 Targets in Syria in 24 Hours: Military

MOSCOW - Russian jets struck 94 "terrorist" targets in war-torn Syria over the past 24 hours, the highest one-day tally since Moscow started its bombing campaign on September 30, the military said. "In 59 sorties in the past 24 hours, Russia's air force hit 94 terrorist targets in the provinces of Hama, Idlib, Latakia, Damascus, Aleppo and DeirEzzor," Russian news agencies quoted defence ministry spokesman Igor Konashenkov as saying. (AFP)

US Reports 15 more Air Strikes Against IS in Iraq

WASHINGTON - A U.S.-led coalition conducted 15 air strikes against Islamic state in Iraq on Sunday, said a U.S. military statement on Monday that reported no air attacks against the group in Syria. The air strikes in Iraq, including five near Ramadi, hit Islamic State fighters, weapons and vehicles, the statement said. Iraq has said it has plans to retake Ramadi, a key Sunni city in western Iraq that was captured by Islamic State in May. The coalition has been bombing the militant group in both Iraq and Syria for more than a year. (Reuters)

Spain's PM Calls Dec. 20 Elections, Lauds Government Record

MADRID - Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy on Monday signed a decree formally dissolving Parliament and calling general elections Dec. 20, using the occasion to do some campaigning by praising his government's handling of the severe economic crisis. Rajoy said he had fulfilled a promise made on taking office in 2011 by reducing sky-high unemployment and spurring economic growth.

He says the country had gone from being threatened with needing a bailout to one of full confidence among investors and from record unemployment to a situation of job creation.

The ruling Popular Party hopes the recovery will boost its elec-



toral fortunes but polls indicate the party is running neck and neck with the opposition Socialist party and could lose its parliamentary majority. The polls indicate one of the two main parties will have to do a deal with one of the two newcomers, the centrist Ciudadanos (Citizens) party or the far-

Netanyahu Mulls Revoking Benefits for some Palestinians in East Jerusalem

JERUSALEM - Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has raised the possibility of revoking benefits and travel rights of some Palestinians living in East Jerusalem, a government official said on Monday, in response to a wave of Palestinian violence. Such a move did not appear to be imminent or even politically feasible but its mere mention ran counter to a decades-old Israeli assertion that Jerusalem is a united city where Arab and Jewish residents enjoy equal rights.

Israel regards all the city, including East Jerusalem, which was captured along with the West Bank in 1967, as its indivisible capital. Unlike their brethren in the occupied West Bank, Palestinians in East Jerusalem receive Israeli social benefits and can move freely in Israel. Many of the Arab assailants in one of the worst waves of Palestinian-Israeli street violence in decades have come from East Jerusalem.

Many of the Palestinian attacks on Israelis are now occurring in the West Bank, rather than in Jerusalem where they started. Israeli forces on Monday shot dead a Palestinian assailant who the army ... (More on P4)... (18)

Neighbor News

Iran to Join BRICS NDB Bank



TEHRAN - Iranian officials said on Monday that the country plans to join an independent bank established by BRICS member states. The announcement was made by Mohammad Khazaei, Iran's deputy economy minister for development affairs, at conference on Iran-Brazil economic cooperation.

The agreement to establish the BRICS New Development Bank (NDB), with an initial capitalization of \$100 billion, was signed by the BRICS member states - Brazil, Russia, India, China and

South Africa - during the group's 6th summit in Fortaleza, Brazil, in July 2014. The bank is meant to act as an alternative to the existing American and European-dominated financial institutions such as the World Bank and International Monetary Fund. It was officially launched at the last BRICS summit in the Russian city of Ufa earlier this year. Khazaei said Iran's joining the NDB will help the expansion of economic relations with all BRICS states, specifically Brazil. (PressTV)

Chinese State Councilor meets Danish FM

BEIJING - Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi met with Danish Foreign Minister Kristian Jensen in Beijing on Monday.

Yang said China attaches great importance to the two countries' comprehensive strategic partnership and that they have cooperated well in recent years.

China is willing to make joint efforts with Denmark to strengthen their ties, he said. According to Jensen,

Denmark attaches great importance to its ties with China, sticks to the one-China policy, and is ready to cooperate more with China and hold more people-to-people exchanges, and also participate in the "Belt and Road" initiative proposed by China.

Jensen is paying an official visit to China from Oct. 25 to 27 at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. (Xinhua)

PM Nawaz, Shahbaz Telephone Pervaiz Khattak

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has telephoned Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Chief Minister Pervaiz Khattak, assuring him that the federal government will extend full cooperation to the provincial government in its efforts to cope with the situation that has emerged in the wake of deadly earthquake. The earthquake killed almost 200 people and injured over 1000 across the country on with Khyber Pakhtunkhwa emerging as the most affected part of the country. Meanwhile, Shahbaz Sharif, Punjab Chief

Minister, has also contacted Pervaiz Khattak, expressing profound grief over the loss of lives and property due to the earthquake. Shahbaz Sharif said his government is sending machinery, blankets, milk, and food in the affected areas. The Pakistan army has also reached in the affected parts of the country and troops are busy in carrying out rescue operation. The army chief also took an aerial view of the affected areas as he arrived in Peshawar following the earthquake. (Monitoring Desk)

Tajikistan Seeks Support of Japan's Bank for Enhancement of its Banking System

DUSHANBE - Jamshed Nourmahmadzoda, Chairman of the National Bank of Tajikistan (NBT), met here with Mr. Masahiko Oshima, Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Europe Limited (SMBCE).

According to the NBT press center, Nourmahmadzoda briefed SMBCE CEO on the state of Tajikistan macroeconomics and banking system. He, in particular, noted that Tajikistan's banking system has faced a number of problems as a result of the global financial and economic crisis.

To resolve these problems Tajikistan ought to expand international cooperation attracting technical assistance from donors, Tajik central bank chief said.

Nourmahmadzoda stressed that Tajik central bank was interested in establishment and expand of bilateral cooperation with the Sumitomo Mitsui Banking Corporation Europe Limited on training of specialists for Tajikistan's banking system, exchange of experience, and attraction of technical assistance for development of information technologies. (Asia-Plus)