

# UN's Zeid Reaffirms Importance of Human Rights Amid Global Challenges

GENEVA - The United Nations (UN) human rights chief warned Monday that the world had "much to lose" if states failed to uphold, protect and support basic human rights set out by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. "Without a commitment to fundamental human rights, to the dignity and worth of the human person and to the equal rights of men and women and of nations large and small, our world will become chaos, misery and warfare," Zeid al Hussein said at the opening of the 34th session of the Human Rights Council (HRC) here. "Of all the great post-war achievements, it is this assertion of the universality of



rights in human rights law that may be the most noteworthy," he added. With the world facing growing geopolitical uncertainties, the high commissioner urged states to stand firm in their commitment to the multilateral system and not repeat past mistakes which saw the UN's predecessor, the League of Nations, fall into disrepute. "To those political actors who, as in the days of the League, threaten the multilateral system or intend to withdraw from parts of it, the sirens of historical experience ought to ring clear," Zeid told council members. "We will not sit idly by. For we have much to lose, so much... (More on P4)...(14)

## Paris Mayor Slams 'Unfriendly' Trump over Safety Row

TOKYO - The mayor of Paris Monday slammed disparaging comments by Donald Trump about the French capital and immigration policies in Europe, suggesting the US president should focus on issues closer to home. Trump gave a bombastic address to a conservative rally outside Washington Friday in which he defended his crackdown on immigrants and criticized long-time allies France, Sweden and Germany. Singling out the French capital, which has suffered

terror attacks by Islamist militants in recent years, he quoted a friend 'Jim' who refuses to visit the European city, saying "Paris is no longer Paris". Mayor Anne Hidalgo responded the same day by tweeting a photo of Mickey and Minnie Mouse at the Eiffel Tower, following up with the hashtag #Donald&Jim in subsequent tweets pointing to a spike in American tourist figures this year. "They are unfriendly comments," Hidalgo said... (More on P4)...(15)

## UN Chief Deplores Rights Violations in Conflicts, Condemns Extremism

GENEVA - United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said Monday that growing human rights violations across the world are akin to a spreading disease which needs to be cured through multilateral forums including the Human Rights Council (HRC), whose latest session kicked off Monday. "Disregard for human rights is a disease, and it is a disease that is spreading - north, south, east and west," Guterres told members in his opening address to the 34th session of the

HRC. "The Human Rights Council must be part of the cure. You can be pivotal for prevention - sounding early warnings of crises," he added. In light of an increasingly "dangerous and chaotic world," the secretary-general reminded that normative differences among member states must not shadow the shared understanding that human rights should be upheld for all people and in the interest of all member states. He also highlighted the importance of conducting



interactive discussions and recommendations within the Council in a way which avoids "double standards." "The integrity and credibility of this Council will only be enhanced by

proceeding in a manner that avoids unbalanced treatment of Member States," he said. Guterres, who took office at the beginning of the year, ... (More on P4)...(16)

## S.Korea to Speed up THAAD Deployment Process after Land Swap Deal with Lotte

SEOUL - South Korea is expected to speed up the process of deploying the U.S. missile shield in its soil after Lotte Group, the country's fifth-largest conglomerate, decided to give a green light to the land swap contract with the defense ministry. A South Korean defense ministry official told Xinhua that he was informed of Lotte's decision to approve the deal to exchange its golf course in southeast South Korea for military land in Gyeonggi province near the capital Seoul. Lotte International,

a Lotte Group unit possessing the golf course where the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery is set to be sited, held a board of directors meeting earlier in the day to approve the deal. Seoul and Washington agreed in July last year to deploy one THAAD battery by the end of this year. The site was changed in November into the golf course amid strong oppositions from residents. The ministry official said the signing... (More on P4)...(17)

## More Than 3,500 Attacks on Refugees in Germany in 2016: Report

BERLIN - A new German report has shown that more than 3,500 attacks on refugees and refugee hostels were committed in 2016, local media Deutsche Welle reported on Sunday. According to the preliminary report by German interior ministry, the attacks on individual migrants were 2,545, while the attacks on housing were 988 and those on refugee organizations and volunteers stood at 217. The attacks left 560 people injured, including 43 children.



The report might fuel the debate on whether Germany is capable of keeping the refugees safe. Germany is struggling to process loads of asylum

applications, while fears are high that terrorists might infiltrate and threaten the security. German governing political blocs have been highly

sensitive in treating the refugee-related issues, as they might steer the course of the coming federal election in September. (Xinhua)

## Syrian Army Advances toward Capturing Palmyra City

DAMASCUS - The Syrian army and allied fighters are advancing toward capturing the ancient city of Palmyra in central Syria, becoming close to the entrance of that millennia-old oasis city, a military source told Xinhua on Monday. The Syrian government forces have over the past 24 hours captured a high plateau and the Tamthil city west of the city, becoming close to the al-Tar mountain, which overlooks the entrance of the city, the source said, on condition of anonymity. The Syrian forces also cap-



tured hilltops overlooking the Palmyra triangle, southwest of the city, killing many IS militants, according to the source. They also wrested control over the highest peak of

the al-Hayel mountain, near Palmyra city. Meanwhile, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said intense battles are still ongoing near... (More on P4)...(18)

## Iraqi Forces Seize Strategic Bridge, Extend Grip in Western Mosul

MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi forces on Monday captured a strategic bridge across the Tigris River, after seizing another neighborhood from Islamic State (IS) militants in western Mosul, the military said. Federal police and interior ministry special forces, known as Rapid Response, recaptured the neighborhood of Jawsaq and secured the foot of its strategic bridge across Tigris, locally known as 4th Bridge, Lt. Gen. Abdul-Amir Yarallah, from the Joint Operations Command (JOC), said in a statement. The bridge is crucial for Iraqi forces to bring in reinforcements and supplies directly from eastern Mosul. All of Mosul's five bridges, spanning the Tigris River to the city's eastern bank, were destroyed by airstrikes last year. After securing the... (More on P4)...(19)

## Japan's Lower House Passes Record Budget, Defense Spending Swells

TOKYO - Japan's lower house of parliament on Monday approved a record draft budget for fiscal 2017, as the government grapples to finance rapidly swelling welfare costs to tackle the nation's demographic crisis and stagnant inflation, although continues to expand its controversial military spending. The 97.45 trillion yen (870 billion U.S. dollars) budget will be enacted before the end of the current fiscal year on March 31, and its passage through the upper house of Japan's bicameral system of parliament is as good as guaranteed. Thirty days after being sent to the upper house, the budget will be automatically enacted as per Japan's constitutional ordinance. Japan is a nation that has been mired in deflationary pressure for decades, with various stimulus measures by the Bank of Japan and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's numerous installments of his "Abenomics" aggressive economic policies, having negligible effects. Growth areas remain slim in the world's third-largest economy and corporations who have managed to net profits are not increasing wages at a rate to encourage consumer spending, which accounts for 60 percent of Japan's GDP. Japan's mainstay exports sector also lacks competitiveness due to the yen's recent strength, which has led to a production slump. Public spending having gone awry for decades, Japan's fiscal health is allowed to deteriorate with no clear signs of major new growth... (More on P4)...(20)

## Nieghbor News

### China to More Briskly Introduce Foreign Investment: Minister

BEIJING - China will more briskly introduce foreign investment, Commerce Minister Zhong Shan said Monday. Addressing a meeting in Beijing, Zhong promised more efforts in the area this year, including propelling the development of free trade zones, pushing for reforms in foreign investment management, and improving the business environment. Foreign direct investment on the Chinese mainland rose 4.1 percent year on year last year, mildly down from the 6.4-percent gain in 2015. China has been loosening the grip on the inflow of foreign capital as part of efforts to facilitate its

opening up, reducing restrictive measures and opening more sectors. In 2016, laws on foreign investment were amended, and measures were unveiled to simplify the approval procedure for foreign companies. Zhong also hopes foreign-funded businesses will play a bigger role in boosting China's sluggish real economy. Foreign companies generate nearly half of China's foreign trade, 20 percent of tax incomes and a seventh of urban jobs during the past four years, he said. Zhong was appointed Commerce Minister, replacing Gao Hucheng, the top legislature said Friday. (Xinhua)

### Political Uncertainty Keeps Pakistan Stocks Bearish

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistan Stock Exchange (PSX) remained bearish for the second straight day on Monday as investors opted for the profit-taking amid uncertainty on political front and regulatory strictness. The Pakistan Stock Exchange's benchmark KSE 100-Index declined by 0.99 percent or 487.25 points to 48,520.75 points on Monday when compared with 49,008.00 points posted on Friday. The KSE All-Share Index decreased by 0.90 percent or 297.47 points to 32,868.84 points, the KSE 30-Index fell by 0.89 percent or 237.37 points to 26,354.86 points, the KMI 30-Index reduced by 0.88 percent or 743.47 points to 83,584.09 points, whereas the Islamic All-Share Index plummeted by 1.09 percent or 254.40 points to 23,101.02 points. During Monday's trading session, the main index traveled in a healthy range of 591.00 points as it touched an intraday high of 49,081.19 points as against an intraday low of

48,490.19 points. Steel sector came under pressure as reports surfaced of the courts granting interim relief to the steel importers by way of temporarily suspending the collection of anti-dumping duty while the case proceeding are heard. This led Aisha Steel Mills and Inter Steel Limited to close at their lower limit of 5 percent. Searle Pakistan announced earnings per share of 4.2 rupees along with a cash dividend of 2 rupees per share but the stock price depleted by 0.8 percent. Market volumes trimmed down by 8.86 percent or 24.392 million shares to 250.993 million shares on Monday when compared with 275.386 million shares posted on Friday. Market capitalization deflated by 0.9 percent or 87.04 billion rupees (811.189 million U.S. dollars) to 9.617 trillion rupees whereas trade value shrank by 18.24 percent or 2.586 billion rupees to 11.595 billion rupees. (Xinhua)

### Iran FM Urges Against Politicization of Anti-Drug Campaign

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says the West must shoulder more responsibility in the campaign against trafficking of illicit drugs and refrain from politicizing the issue. "The West's failure to prevent the smuggling of narcotics is an important issue but the fight against drugs must not be politicized," Zarif said in a meeting with Yury Fedotov, the executive director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(UNODC), in Tehran on Monday. He added that Iran had paid high economic and human costs in fighting drug trafficking and expressed the Islamic Republic's readiness to cooperate with UNODC in the war against narcotics. Iran, which has a 900-kilometer common border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to narcotics kingpins in Europe. Despite high economic... (More on P4)...(22)

### Formation of New Government in Turkmenistan Continues

ASHGABAT - Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has made appointments to form a new government. The appointments come after the Feb. 12 presidential election, where Berdimuhamedov was re-elected for a third term. Berdimuhamedov by his decree on Feb. 27 appointed Purli Agamyradov as minister of education, Nurmuhammet Annanepesov as minister of health and medical industry, Toyly Komekov as chairman

of the State Committee for Sports, and Gulshat Orazmuhammedova as minister of culture, the Turkmen government said in a message. He also appointed Akmyrat Khudayberdiyev as chairman of the State Publishing Service, Bekdurdy Amansaryev as chairman of the State Information Agency, and Serdar Cholukov as chairman of the State Committee for Tourism. Chary Gylyjov was appointed as chairman of the Supreme Control Chamber. (Trend)

## US General Discusses Military Aid on Lebanon Visit

BEIRUT - The commander of U.S. forces in the Middle East has met with top officials in Lebanon to discuss American military aid and other efforts to contain the fallout from the civil war in neighboring Syria. Army Gen. Joseph Votel, the head of U.S. Central Command, met with Lebanese President Michel Aoun, Prime Minister Saad Hariri and Defense Minister Yaacoub Sarraf upon his arrival in Beirut on Monday. Votel did not make any public comments in the Lebanese capital. The U.S. has been speeding up delivery of ammunition to help Lebanon's... (More on P4)...(21)

## Australians Divided over Accepting PNG, Nauru Refugees: Poll

SYDNEY - Australians are divided over accepting refugees currently being held on Papua New Guinea (PNG)'s Manus Island and Nauru, according to a poll released on Monday. The Roy Morgan poll surveyed over 1,000 Australians, and found that exactly 50 percent of people surveyed were in favor of accepting refugees, while the other 50 percent were against it. Women were far more welcoming, with 58 percent of those surveyed saying they would welcome asylum seekers, while 59 percent of men were against any further refugee influx. Younger people were also far more

likely to want refugees to be allowed into Australia, with 58 percent of those between 18 and 24 years of age in favour of letting them into the country, while 57 percent of people aged 50 to 64 were against the idea. Some of those polled who were against accepting the refugees, cited the lack of willingness by refugees to assimilate, and further encouragement of people smuggling as reasons not to allow them in. And those in favour claim basic human rights are a national responsibility, and drew attention to the "appalling" conditions on Nauru and Manus Island. (Xinhua)