

# No one Should be President for Life: Obama

WASHINGTON - President Obama has called on African presidents to respect their constitutions and step down when their terms end. Speaking during a keynote address to the African Union, a member organization of 54 African nations, at its headquarters in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, Mr. Obama urged the AU to use its authority to help make sure African leaders stick to their term limits and follow their constitutions. "No one should be president for life," Obama said.



"I just don't understand" the phenomenon of leaders who refuse to step aside when their

terms end. "There's still so much I want to get done to keep America moving forward. But the law is the law and no one is above it, not even presidents," Obama said. "And, frankly, I'm looking forward to life after being president. It will mean more time with my family, new ways to serve, and more visits to Africa." Refusal to step down from office has led to political strife in many African nations. In November 2014, Burkina Faso's Blaise Compaore was forced to resign ... (More on P4)...(21)

## Peace Process with Kurdish Militants Impossible: Erdogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday it was impossible to continue a peace process with Kurdish militants and urged parliament to strip politicians with links to them of immunity from prosecution. His comments come days after the Turkish air force bombed camps in northern Iraq belonging to the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), following a series of attacks on police officers and soldiers in Turkey blamed on the Kurdish



militant group. The PKK said the air strikes, launched virtually in parallel with strikes against Islamic State fighters in Syria, rendered the peace process meaningless but stopped short of formally pulling out. "It is not possible for us to continue the peace process with those who threaten our national unity and brotherhood," Erdogan told a news conference in Ankara before departing on an official visit to China. (Reuters)

## EU Approves Military Mission to Tackle Migrant Smugglers

BRUSSELS - EU member states approved plans Friday to launch as early as next week the first phase of a military operation against people smugglers in the Mediterranean, sources said. "Everything is now in place so that EU foreign ministers meeting Monday can approve the launch of the mission," one EU diplomat told AFP. Other sources said member states have

committed to supply enough ships and aircraft to allow the first, intelligence-gathering, phase of the operation to go ahead. Stung into action by the loss of an estimated 800 migrants when their rickety boat sank off southern Italy, EU leaders agreed at an emergency summit in April to formulate a comprehensive plan to tackle the problem at source. (AFP)

## Sri Lanka Calls for Regional Cooperation to Eradicate Drug Menace

COLOMBO - Sri Lankan President Maithripala Sirisena has called for regional cooperation in several areas to eradicate drug menace and narcotics smuggling, a Foreign Ministry statement said here on Tuesday. In his discussions with Maldivian President Abdulla Yameen during his state visit to the Maldives

over the weekend, Sirisena said that the future priorities for Sri Lanka are in food security and sustainable domestic food production, eradicating the drug menace including narcotics smuggling and environmental protection and conservation. He emphasized the need for regional cooperation in these areas as well.

Sirisena was in the Maldives to attend the Golden Jubilee commemorations of the 50 years of independence of the Maldives. He returned back to the island nation on Monday after successfully concluding his first state visit to the Maldives. He was accompanied by his Finance Minister ... (More on P4)...(22)

## Indians Surge for Final Goodbye to 'People's President'

NEW DELHI - As India bid farewell to its 'Missile Man', a sea of humanity gathered at the residence of deceased former president A.P.J. Abdul Kalam as people of all ages lined up for their last meeting with the "people's president". Neither the July humidity nor the long lines deterred citizens, who lined

up for hours to pay their last respects to the former president. Slogans like "Abdul Kalamarraha" (May Abdul Kalam be immortal) rent the air. Rajaji Marg, an otherwise quiet lane in Lutyens' Delhi, a few hundred metres from Rashtrapati Bhavan, was crowded as visitors kept pouring in.

Barricades that were in place when VIPs visited the residence were lifted around 4 p.m. for the public. As police allowed people in batches, it was a stampede-like situation briefly as the crowd tried to push its way in. Order was restored soon, and queues were formed, with elaborate security in place. (IANS)

## S. Arabia Playing with fire, Tying Ceasefire in Yemen: Iran



TEHRAN - A senior Iranian diplomat has warned against the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Yemen, saying Saudi Arabia is not taking the issue of ceasefire in Yemen seriously. "Saudi Arabia played with fire by making a strategic mistake in [its] attack on Yemen and it is now toying with the issue of ceasefire," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Tuesday. Saudi Arabia announced on Saturday that there would be a

five-day halt in the military aggression against Yemen starting from 11:59 pm local time (2059 GMT) on Sunday. The self-declared ceasefire went into effect but aerial bombardment of the war-stricken country continued unabated prior to the pause. Riyadh has already violated several ceasefires in Yemen. Amir-Abdollahian urged "everybody to help the Yemeni people and also the United Nations in stopping the aggression and lifting the humanitarian blockade" in the war-hit country. (Agencies)

## Libyan Court Sentences Gaddafi son Saif, Eight Other Ex-Officials to Death

TRIPOLI - A Libyan court on Tuesday sentenced Muammar Gaddafi's most prominent son, Saif al-Islam, and eight others to death for war crimes including killings of protesters during the 2011 revolution that ended his father's rule. The former Gaddafi regime officials sentenced

to die by firing squad included former intelligence chief Abdullah al-Senussi and ex-prime minister Baghdadi al-Mahmoudi, Sadiq al-Sur, chief investigator at the Tripoli state prosecutor's office, told a televised news conference in Tripoli. The trial outcome drew ... (More on P4)...(23)

## Central African Intelligence Chiefs in Gabon for Anti-Terrorism talks

LIBREVILLE - Heads of intelligence agencies from Central African nations are meeting in Gabon's capital Libreville on Tuesday to discuss anti-terrorism, an official source said. The three-day meeting organized by the Economic Community of Central African States and the Gabonese government, aims to define the "best strategy" for fighting organized crime and terrorism in Central Africa, a region that re-

mains exposed to security threats, including those imposed by Nigerian militant group Boko Haram. "The intelligence chiefs will come up with a common strategy and will set up a regional institutional platform for close collaboration and cooperation in the fight against terrorism," the source said. Two of the ten ECCAS member states, Chad and Cameroon, have been victims of Boko Haram attacks. (Xinhua)

## Israeli PM Opposes Court Order to Demolish Illegal Houses in West Bank

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Tuesday that his government opposes a High Court order to demolish two illegal buildings in the West Bank settlement of Beit El. His remark came after paramilitary Border Police forces took over the so-called Dreinoff Buildings overnight. The move followed an order by the Supreme Court to demolish the 24-apartment buildings by July 30 because they were built on private Palestinian land. About 50 settlers have been arrested, after barricading themselves and clashing with police forces for hours, a police spokesperson said. Hardliner cabinet ministers and settler activ-

ists reacted angrily to the evacuation, denouncing Netanyahu and Defense Minister Moshe Ya'alon for allegedly betraying their settler allies. "It is high time for this government to lead the (right-wing) ideology for which it was elected, instead of promoting leftist moves," leader of the pro-settler Jewish Home faction Nafali Bennett said in a statement. He also demanded Netanyahu to clarify the government's position on the demolition. Hours after the evacuation, Netanyahu released a soothing message to the settlers, saying: "Our stance on the buildings in Beit El is very clear: We opposed the demolition and are taking legal action to prevent this move." (Xinhua)

## French Defense Minister Visits Djibouti over Presence of its Troops

DJIBOUTI - French Defense Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian ended his two day visit to Djibouti on Monday, after holding talks with the Djiboutian leaders about the presence of French troops in the country, an official has said. France abandoned the initial plan of reducing the number of French soldiers deployed to Djibouti, from 1,900 to 900 by 2017, after an intervention by French President Francois Hollande. However, French media has reported that Paris will still reduce the number of soldiers at its Djibouti military base to 1,300 soldiers in 2018. The announcement

calmed the Djiboutian authorities who had expressed concern over the economic impact of reducing the number of French soldiers by more than half. A former French colony that gained independence in 1977, Djibouti is situated at the junction of the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and hosts several military bases that include U.S., French, European and Japanese bases, involved in the fight against maritime piracy and terrorism. Djibouti was the last stop of Le Drian's African tour that also saw him visit the Republic of Congo, Central African Republic and Egypt. (Xinhua)

## Australian MPs call for more Women in Parliament

CANBERRA - Federal Liberal Party MPs have called on party leaders to "join most of the developed world" and push for a greater representation of women in the Australian parliament, after it was revealed that just one in five of its ministers were female. Liberal MP Sharman Stone on Tuesday said more needed to be done by her party, which could learn from the opposition's stated policy of having equal representation by 2025. Labor announced the target at its national conference in Melbourne over the weekend.

Stone told Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) Radio that the Liberal Party needed to overcome its "fear" of quotas and said that Labor's policy seemed to be working. "I look across the chamber and I can see them having merit equal to the men. It certainly hasn't produced for them two classes of parliamentarians," she said. She said that other nations in the Pacific and Africa had equal representation, telling the ABC that it was time Australia's Liberal Party joined "most of the developed world." (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### China Prepares for Women's Rights Conference with Advocate Meeting

BEIJING - Chinese Vice President Li Yuanchao met on Tuesday with Gertrude Mongella, a Tanzanian diplomat and women's rights advocate, as China prepares for a leading role in a global gender equality meeting. Mongella was secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women, an event convened by the UN in Beijing 20 years ago. In September, China and the UN will co-chair the Global Leaders' Meeting on Gender Equality and Women's Empower-

ment at UN Headquarters in New York. Li said the conference in 1995 was of great significance and had a far-reaching influence. He said he hopes the upcoming meeting will encourage implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the guideline that resulted from the Fourth World Conference on Women. Mongella stressed the influence of the conference and said she hopes China will continue to promote gender equality and women's rights. (Xinhua)

### Mogherini in Iran to Discuss Nuclear Deal, Region

ANKARA - Iran and the European Union have agreed to start talks on issues including confronting terrorism, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif told a news conference with the EU's chief diplomat in Tehran on Tuesday. EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini arrived for a one-day visit to discuss implementation of an agreement for

Iran to curtail its nuclear program in return for lifting sanctions against the country, state TV reported. "We have agreed to hold high-level talks between Iran and the European Union over different issues, including energy cooperation ... human rights, confronting terrorism and regional issues," Zarif said after meeting her. (Reuters)

### Pakistan Gas Distribution Network Not Ready to get Iran's Gas: Gas Association

ISLAMABAD - Central leader of All Pakistan CNG Association (APCNGA) has asked the government to take immediate measures to upgrade gas distribution network to sustain Iranian gas pressure. Pakistan gas distribution network not ready to get Iran's gas: Pak Gas Association Talking to IRNA on Tuesday, Ghyas Abdullah Paracha, said that concerned authorities are not paying any attention to upgrade the capacity of gas pipelines. "We could not take the benefit from the imported gas despite paying extra prices because our gas network lacks the capacity to distribute gas in full pressure," he noted. Ghyas Paracha said that the poor gas

distribution network is a matter of great concern for us which may hinder gas imports from Iran. He said there are two gas distribution companies in Pakistan Sui Northern Gas Pipelines Limited and Sui Southern Gas Pipelines Limited but their systems are not upgraded and efficient enough to distribute gas in full pressure. APCNGA official added that 'due to our poor gas distribution network we had 14 percent of gas losses last year.' "We are in favor of IP gas pipeline, as it will help in overcoming our energy woes, but first we need to upgrade our local gas distribution network to get full benefit of the project," he viewed. (Monitoring Desk)

### Central Bank of Uzbekistan Keeps base Rate at 9%

BISHKEK - The Board of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan has made a decision to keep a refinancing rate at 9% per annum, said in the report of the financial regulator. Such decision was made based on the tasks defined in the main directions of monetary policy for 2015 taking into account the actual and

expected level of inflation for the current year, says the report. The Board of the Central Bank of Uzbekistan decided to reduce the base rate from 10% to 9% in January 2015. The base rate at the level of 10% was kept from January 2014 against the previous rate of 12% kept from December 2010. (AKIpress)

### ADB Prepares New Strategy with Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The Asian Development Bank (ADB) is developing a new country partnership strategy (CPS) with Tajikistan for 2016-2020, which is scheduled for consideration at the second consultative workshop to be held here on Tuesday. The meeting will be attended by the director of the ADB Resident Office in Dushanbe C.C. Yu, Tajik Minister of Economic Development and Trade Nematullo Hikmatullozoda, Tajik government offi-

cials, civil society and others, the bank's country office said. The interim CPS will position Tajikistan to deliver higher, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth by addressing binding constraints to development. To achieve this objective, ADB will help to improve energy and transport infrastructure, expand access to clean water and social services, facilitate reforms, and invest in human development to support private sector development. (Agencies)