

Russia Slams US for Abusing UN Host Role

UNITED NATIONS - Russia on Tuesday accused the United States of abusing its role as host of the UN Headquarters in New York, disrespecting the UN leadership and blocking organizations it doesn't favor from attending sessions at the world organization. "Such action by the U.S. is an abuse of their position as host country of the UN and shows a glaring disrespect towards the secretariat leadership," Russia's Ambassador to the UN Vitaly Churkin told a meeting of the Security Council. "We call for an end to such high-



handedness." The panel of 15 was discussing how it conducts its business. The U.S. Mission to the United

Nations did not immediately reply to Xinhua's requests for comment. Moscow's envoy was

critical of a session chaired by U.S. President Barack Obama on combating violent extremism held Sept.

29 on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly's annual General Debate. "The (UN) Secretariat is a

gracious host, offering its premises at headquarters for events organized by member states on a broad range of issues," he said. "However, we should need to understand that when holding such events all members of the organization, bar none, must respect the rules of the house." "We think it's unacceptable that at the event organized by the U.S. delegation on Sept. 29, an event on combating violent extremism -- notwithstanding protests by the Secretariat leadership and certain delegations -- they (the United States) ... (More on P4)...(23)

Nieghbor News

Pakistan Ratifies WTO Pact to Facilitate Border Trade

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has ratified WTO's Trade Facilitation Agreement (TFA) which contains provisions for expediting the movement, release and clearance of goods, including goods in transit. After ratification, Pakistan has become the 51st World Trade Organization member, first from South Asia, to accede to the treaty.

"We have deposited instrument of acceptance of the TFA to the Geneva-based WTO secretariat," a senior official of the commerce ministry told Dawn on Tuesday.

Before leaving for US, Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has approved the summary despite reservations from the Customs

Department over the TFA. The premier also asked the Federal Board of Revenue (FBR) to complete all other formalities within 15 days of the ratification of the treaty. This will be the second treaty that Islamabad has acceded to facilitate border trade including goods in transit. Recently, Pakistan also ratified the UN Convention on the International Transport of Goods, entailing no payment of customs and taxes on goods in transit with neighbouring countries. India has yet to ratify both the treaties. Afghanistan and India have constantly pushing Pakistan for allowing Indian goods for transit to Kabul and beyond. (Agencies)

China a Consistent, Reliable Partner for Africa: Ex-Kenyan Envoy

NAIROBI - China has been a consistent and reliable development partner for Africa as it has helped African countries realize their priority goals, a former Kenyan official said Tuesday.

Julius Sunkuli, the Kenyan Ambassador to China between 2008 and 2012, said African countries recognize Beijing as a dependable ally as they chart new development pathways. "The core priorities of African countries include good transport, adequate energy supply and houses for people living in cities. China can help us realize these objectives. Our focus should be on how to harness the opportuni-

ties provided by China," Sunkuli said during an interview with Xinhua in the Kenyan capital of Nairobi. Sunkuli said China's support and investment in Africa have accelerated the continent's socio-economic transformation, and are critical to its economic growth. "China has focused on a win-win relationship with Africa. Its biggest impact in Africa has been on infrastructure development," Sunkuli said. China has been providing African countries with financial and technical support, particularly in modernizing the infrastructure including roads, ports ... (More on P4)...(27)

Libya Political Process 'will go on': UN Envoy

TUNIS - UN envoy Bernardino Leon insisted Wednesday that efforts to clinch a political deal to end the turmoil in Libya will carry on although several parties have rejected his proposals.

Leon's remarks come a day after Western and Arab states issued a joint declaration urging rival sides to accept a UN plan for a power-sharing government "immediately".

"The process goes on. There is no chance for small groups or personalities to hijack this process," Leon told a news conference in Tunis.

"The political solution is the only real alternative," he said, adding that further meetings would be held in the coming days. The largely tribal North

African nation descended into chaos after the October 2011 ouster and killing of longtime dictator Moamer Kadhafi, with two governments vying for power and armed groups battling for control of its vast energy resources. A militia alliance including Islamists overran Tripoli in August 2014, establishing a rival government and a parliament that forced the internationally recognized administration to flee to eastern Libya.

On October 9, after almost a year of arduous negotiations, Leon put forward a list of names to head a power-sharing government, but both sides balked at the proposed appointments. (AFP)

EU Meeting 2020 Target for Reducing Greenhouse Emissions

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) is on track towards meeting and overachieving its 2020 target for reducing greenhouse emissions by 20 percent, according to a report published recently by the European Environment Agency (EEA) ahead of Paris climate talks.

The "Trends and projections in Europe 2015" report revealed that greenhouse gas emissions in Europe decreased by 23 percent between 1990 and 2014, reaching the lowest levels on record.

Moreover, latest projections by member states show that the EU is heading for a 24 percent reduction by 2020 with current measures in place, and a 25 percent reduction with additional measures al-



ready being planned in member states. The EU is already working towards its 2030 goal of an emissions reduction target of at least 40 percent - the EU's contribution towards the new global climate change agreement in Paris in December, said the press release. "Europe's efforts to cut greenhouse gas emis-

sions and invest in energy efficiency and renewable energy have resulted in concrete gains. Our report shows that the EU is on track towards its 2020 climate targets. The report also shows that to achieve our longer-term goals for 2030 and 2050, a fundamental change is needed in the way we produce

and use energy in Europe," Hans Bruyninckx, EEA Executive Director. However, the EU is widely criticized for its emissions target, as experts and international societies believed that the EU is capable of setting more ambitious targets and doing more to tackle climate change. (Xinhua)

Hungary will not open 'Corridor' for Migrants: Government

BUDAPEST - Hungary has no intention of opening any corridor for migrants trying to get into the European Union's passport-free Schengen zone from the south, the government said on Wednesday.

Spokesman Zoltan Kovacs made the remarks after a meeting of Croatian, Slovenian, Austrian and Hungarian police chiefs in Vienna. Hungary has closed its southern borders with Serbia and Croatia to stem the flow of migrants. "Hungary has made



it abundantly clear... that it does not support any proposal to open corridors on

the border sections closed in the south or to provide means of transport for migrants

within the Schengen zone," Kovacs told a news conference. (Reuters)

EU Calls Migrant Mini-Summit as Balkans Buckle Under Refugee Crisis

LJUBLJANA - The EU on Wednesday called a mini-summit with Balkan countries on the migrant crisis, as Slovenia became the latest state to buckle under a surge of refugees desperate to reach northern Europe before winter. The leaders of Austria, Bulgaria, Croatia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Romania and Slovenia will meet on Sunday with their counterparts from non-EU states Macedonia and Serbia, the office of European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said.

"In view of the unfolding emergency in the countries along the western

Balkans migratory route, there is a need for much greater cooperation, more extensive consultation and immediate operational action," a statement said. The continent has been struggling to find a unified response on how to tackle its biggest migration crisis since 1945. More than 600,000 migrants and refugees, mainly fleeing violence in Syria, Iraq and Afghanistan, have braved the dangerous journey to Europe so far this year, the UN said. The goal for many travelling is the EU's biggest economy Germany, which expects ... (More on P4)...(24)

Iran Increases Number of Military Advisers in Syria

TEHRAN - Iran has increased the number of its military advisers to the Syrian government in the fight against terrorists, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was quoted as saying by ISNA news agency on Wednesday. "Some may criticize Iran for sending the military advisers to Syria in the fight against terrorists and may consider it as unconstructive, but they are better to think first about the role that some countries play in supporting terrorism in Syria," Amir-Abdollahian was quoted as saying. The Iranian foreign minis-

try official denied that Iran has sent ground forces to Syria to fight along with the Russian air forces against the militants. Last week, an oppositional monitor group said that thousands of Iranian forces had arrived at the international airport of Syria's coastal city of Latakia to take part in battles in the northern countryside of the central province of Hama, the countryside of the northwestern province of Idlib and the Latakia Mountains. The head of the Iranian parliament's national security and foreign policy commission, Alaedin Boroujerdi, who was on a visit ... (More on P4)...(27)

Abbas Urges UN Chief for Int'l Protection of the Palestinians

RAMALLAH - Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas on Wednesday urged United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon to ensure an international protection to the Palestinian people. Abbas told a news conference following a meeting with Ban in Ramallah "we reiterate on our request from the UN to ensure international protection to the Palestinian people amid the ongoing wave of violence with Israel." "A protection system to the Palestinian people is necessary amid the measures and practices they face from the violence and the terrorism of the occupation and the settlers, including the collective punishment," said Abbas. He went on saying "the only thing remained is to ask for international protection," adding "we hope if you (Ban Ki-Moon) held us in ensuring this protection." The visit of Ban to the region is made as a flaring wave of violence between Israel and the Palestinians has so far killed 49 Palestinians and nine Israelis and wounded more than 2,000, most of them are Palestinians. On his arrival to the Ramallah, the UN Secretary General met with Rami Hamdallah, the Prime Minister of the Palestinian consensus government at the Palestinian presidency headquarters. Ban has earlier on Tuesday held talks with Israeli Prime Minister ... (More on P4)...(25)

UNHCR Seeks 500mln USD for Return of Somalia Refugees in Kenya

NAIROBI - The UN refugee agency said Wednesday it's seeking 500 million U.S. dollars from donors for the voluntary return of Somali refugees from camps in Kenya.

Since December 2014, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has helped 5,300 refugees return to Somalia from Kenya's Dadaab refugee camps and another 4,500 have signed up at a help desk at the camps to go back.

UNHCR said in a statement received in Nairobi that senior officials from Kenya, Somalia and EU are in Geneva to mobilize more international support for creation of conditions for voluntary return and sustainable reintegration in Somalia as well as the security and resilience of refugees and host communities in Kenya.

"The initial plan of action, which is aligned with the Somalia New Deal Compact framework, requires a total of 500 million dollars and will run for two years until the end of 2017," the statement said.

The statement said the UN High Commissioner Antonio Guterres will open a pledging ... (More on P4)...(26)

Germany may use Military Planes to Speed up Asylum Deportations



BERLIN - Germany could use army transport planes to deport asylum seekers who have had their applications rejected to ease a mounting refugee crisis, the government said on Wednesday.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is under growing pressure over her handling of the crisis, with her popular support waning and some in her

conservative party wanting upper limits on migrants.

Her government has long said it wants to speed up the processing of asylum applications and that anyone who is rejected must leave, but there is a big backlog in deportations.

"If (economic grounds) is the only reason for being here, then we will have to say more strongly to

these people: you must go home," Merkel said at IG Metall union event in Frankfurt.

The government has discussed a range of options, including using army transporters to help deport people, not telling individuals in advance that they would be sent home and tightening up rules that let some failed asylum seekers stay. (Reuters)

UK Supports Tajikistan in Improving its Investment Climate

DUSHANBE - UK supports Tajikistan in improving its Investment Climate and joins to pledge US\$ 3.75 million, according to the British Embassy in Dushanbe. On October 14, Tajikistan held its second International Entrepreneurship Forum in Dushanbe. UK Department for International Development (DFID) and State Secretariat of Economic Affairs of Switzerland jointly allocated additional US\$ 3.75 million to help improve the Investment Climate in Tajikistan. A newly appointed Head of DFID Central Asia Peter Fernandes-Cardy travelled to Dushanbe to sign a Memorandum of Understanding with

the State Committee for Investment and State-owned Property Management to extend the Central Asia Investment Climate Program. The program is implemented by the International Finance Corporation (IFC) and covers Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan. It was active since 2012 with US\$ 9.5 million and now with additional funding will work until end of 2017 in a number of areas important for Tajikistan: business regulation and investment policy; improving tax administration; strengthening corporate governance practices of local firms; and development of mobile money platform and facilitating public private partnerships. (Asia-Plus)