

Sustainable Development Goals Dominate UN Conference

UNITED NATIONS - Representatives from about 140 countries continued here Tuesday to address the UN Speakers of Parliament Conference on a variety of topics, with Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) taking the spotlight. Nearly 70 people were listed on the second day of the meeting, which is held once every five years, with each speaker getting three to five minutes to take the floor at the world conference that kicked off Monday. Next to parliament leaders, the conference also drew speakers from regional bodies and re-



Parliamentary Union. The conference at the UN headquarters serves to more than 150 heads of state and government, prepare for a summit of state and government, ... (More on P4)...(21)

which is set to formally announce the SDGs preceding the annual General Debate of the UN General Assembly. Remarks about sustainable development dominated this year's conference, and among its topics were peace, development and democracy. Donald Capelle, speaker of the Marshall Islands parliament, said his country "is one of the small countries in the Pacific with mixed results," facing "remoteness, smallness in size and capacities, limited resources, aid dependency and vulnerability to climate change and ... (More on P4)...(21)

Eighteen Turkish Workers Kidnapped in Baghdad, Firm Says

BAGHDAD - Gunmen in military uniform seized 18 Turkish workers from a sports stadium they were building in northeastern Baghdad on Wednesday, their company said, in what Ankara said appeared to have been a targeted attack. Diplomats have said Turkey could suffer reprisals after abandoning months of reticence to launch air strikes against Islamic State in neighboring Syria and open its bases to a U.S.-led coalition fighting the Sunni Muslim militants. The workers were taken in the predominantly Shi'ite district of Habibiya, Iraqi Interior Ministry spokesman Brigadier General

Saad Maan said. There was no immediate claim of responsibility, but Turkish Deputy Prime Minister Numan Kurtulmus said investigators in both countries were cooperating. "People dressed in military uniforms broke down the door at 3 a.m. (midnight GMT) and abducted all these people," said Ugur Dogan, chief executive of Nurol Holding, which owns the construction firm. Last year, 46 Turkish citizens were seized by Islamic State militants in the Iraqi city of Mosul. They were released unharmed after more than three months in captivity. (Reuters)

Obama Secures Major Foreign Policy Victory on Iran Deal

WASHINGTON - President Barack Obama secured a landmark foreign policy victory over ferocious opposition from Republicans and the government of Israel when Democratic Sen. Barbara Mikulski became the 34th vote in favor of the Iran nuclear deal. Mikulski's backing gives supporters the margin they need to uphold an expected Obama veto of a congressional resolution of disapproval that Republicans hope to pass later this month. And it spells failure for opponents of the international agreement who sought to foil it by turning



Congress against it. Leading that effort were Israel and its allies in the U.S., who failed to get traction after spending millions of dollars trying. The agreement signed by Iran, the U.S. and five other world powers limits Iran's nuclear program in exchange for relief from hundreds of billions of dollars in sanctions. Republicans and Israeli leaders contend that concessions made to Iran could empower that country, which has sworn to destroy Israel. "No deal is perfect, especially one negotiated with the ... (More on P4)...(22)

Migrants Shut Eurostar Trains to UK, Chaos at Station in Hungary

CALAIS - Hundreds of migrants poured overnight onto the high-speed railway linking Paris with London near the French port of Calais, stranding thousands of passengers in darkness for hours aboard Eurostar trains. At the EU's opposite end, another angry crowd camped outside a Budapest train station demanding to board trains for Germany, as Europe's asylum

system crumbled under the continent's biggest migration crisis since the 1990s Balkan wars. Hundreds of thousands of refugees fleeing wars and economic migrants escaping poverty have arrived in the European Union in an unprecedented wave that has confounded EU leaders and fed the rise of right wing populists. Nearly all first reach the EU's eastern and southern

edges and then press on illegally for richer and more generous EU countries further north and west. The EU's executive European Commission promised to unveil a new policy next week to make it easier to process asylum claims, distinguish bona fide refugees from other migrants, send those from safe countries home and distribute those with genuine asylum claims among the

bloc's 28 members. Meanwhile, authorities have struggled to enforce rules which ordinarily allow free movement within the EU but not to undocumented migrants. Hundreds took to the tracks around France's Calais-Frethun station, the latest target for those trying to reach Britain, which many regard as a better place to live than countries on the continent. (Reuters)

Somali PM, UN Condemn Terror Attack on Military Base

MOGADISHU - A senior UN official and Somali Prime Minister strongly condemned Tuesday's terrorist attack on Africa Union military base manned by Ugandan soldiers in Janaale, Lower Shabelle by Al-Shabaab militants.

In separate statements, the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Somalia (SRSG) Nicholas Kay sent his deepest condolences to the families who lost loved ones and to the people and governments of Uganda and Somalia. "These courageous peacekeepers sacrificed their lives in the ongoing efforts to bring lasting peace and security to Somalia," Kay said. The UN official said the world body remains determined in its support for the Somali people.

According to Amisom, the militants used a car loaded with explosives to trigger the attack and to facilitate their forced entry into the camp after which they engaged soldiers in a gun-battle. The Amisom, however, said its soldiers regained full control of the base. Kay underlined UN's solidarity with Amisom and Somali security forces in their efforts to defeat Al-Shabaab.

In his statement, Somali Prime Minister Sharmarke termed the attack which has reportedly left over 20 soldiers dead as coward act. "We condemn the barbaric attack by those who oppose peace and stability on AMISOM peacekeepers of Uganda contingent and I sent my sincere condolences to the families who have lost loved ones in that attack. I also share my sorrow with the people and government of Uganda," Sharmarke said.

He praised the bravery of the AMISOM troops who repelled the attack of the terrorist group to the full extend they wanted. (Xinhua)

Russia Says will Respond in Kind to new U.S. Sanctions over Ukraine



MOSCOW - Moscow said on Wednesday it would react in kind to United States' widening of sanctions imposed on Russia over the crisis in Ukraine, criticizing the move as straining relations and posing risks for international stability.

EU Set to Roll Over Sanctions on Russian and Ukraine-Rebel Individuals and Firms The Wall Street Journal The U.S. Federal Register said on Wednesday Washington was adding 29 people to the sanctions list to tighten restrictions previously imposed on Russia.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia's response would be reciprocal. The Russian Foreign Ministry said that adding more sanctions on Moscow was illegitimate and added to a series of hostile actions taken

by the United States against Russia.

It said the "reckless" U.S. policy was "fraught with serious costs for international stability."

"The United States should have no illusions that it could continue this course without negative consequences for themselves," the ministry said.

"Response measures, not necessarily mirror ones, will follow from our side."

The new U.S. sanctions cover people and entities linked to those already sanctioned, including Gennady Timchenko, a prominent Russian gas trader, Russia's top oil producer Rosneft and firearms maker Kalashnikov Concern. One of the entities are based in Cyprus, Finland, Romania, Switzerland and Britain. (Reuters)

Neighbour News

China's New Measures to Facilitate Financing, Investment

BEIJING - The Chinese government has unveiled several new measures to find ways to facilitate financing and investment, amid mounting downward pressure for the economy. China's State Council, the cabinet, announced Tuesday that China will set up a 60-billion-yuan fund (9.4 billion U.S. dollars) to support the development of small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). The fund aims to alleviate financing difficulties for SMEs and promote widespread entrepreneurship and innovation to create new growth momentum, said a statement released after an executive cabinet meeting. Chinese SMEs provide more than 80 percent of urban jobs, but usually find difficulty getting loans or pay higher

interest rates than state-owned firms. Different from similar national funds entirely appropriated from central finance, the SME development fund will come from both the central government and other sources, including private firms, state-owned enterprises, financial institutions and local governments. The central government will only provide 15 billion yuan for the fund. Bai Jingming, vice director of the Research Institute for Fiscal Science under the Ministry of Finance, said the new model allows the collaboration of public and private capital and is a new exploration in reforming the country's financing mechanism. "The new fund can allow fiscal funds to have greater leverage than before," Bai said. (Xinhua)

Iranian Hard-Liners Unveil Anti-US Plaque at Former Embassy

TEHRAN - More than a dozen hard-line Iranian students have unveiled an anti-American plaque at the gate of the former U.S. Embassy in Tehran. The plaque unveiled Wednesday by the Basij paramilitary forces carries a list of condemnations of America uttered by the Islamic republic's late founder, Grand Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini. During the gathering, the students set

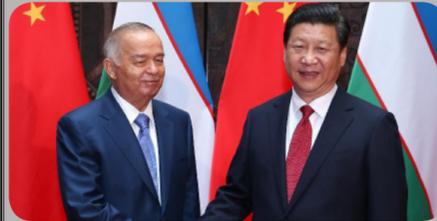
fire to U.S., British and Israeli flags. Iran and the U.S. have had no diplomatic relations since 1979, when Iranian students stormed the embassy and took 52 Americans hostage for 444 days. Hard-liners in Iran have stepped up displays of anti-American fervor since the signing of a landmark nuclear agreement with Washington and five world powers last month. (AP)

Pakistani Army Chief Confirms Death Sentence of Five Terrorists

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani army chief has confirmed death sentences of five hardcore terrorists involved in act of terrorism and sectarian killings, the military said on Wednesday. The death penalty had been handed down by the military courts and has now been confirmed under the law. This is the second time that the army chief General Raheel Sharif has confirmed the death sentence of the terrorists. Last month seven other militants, including those involved in attacks on the army-run school in Peshawar last December were also awarded death sentence. An army statement said those whose death sentence was confirmed were involved in

sectarian killings in southwestern city of Quetta, killings of police officials in Karachi, breaking of a prison in Bannu district in the northwest, attack on a girls school and attack on a polio team in Khyber tribal region and killing of a lawyer. Out of six terrorists, five were awarded death sentence and one awarded life imprisonment by the military courts. They belonged to the banned Tehrik-e-Taliban Pakistan and other proscribed organization. The statement from the army's Inter-Services Public Relations said that the convicts have confessed crimes before the courts. The army said the convicts have the right to appeal against the sentence. (Xinhua)

Xi Meets Uzbekistan President on Ties



BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping met with President of Uzbekistan Islam Karimov in Beijing on Wednesday. Xi welcomed Karimov's visit for China's commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II on Thursday. He hailed the sound momentum of China-Uzbekistan ties and fruitful cooperation in various areas. China is committed to boosting strategic partnership with Uzbekistan, and appreciates the country's support for the building of the Silk Road Economic Belt, Xi said. China would like to improve transport infrastructure cooperation with Uzbekistan, as well

as expand trade, investment and security cooperation, he said. The two countries have maintained high-level coordination within the framework of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), Xi said, adding China will fully support Uzbekistan's efforts as rotating chair of the SCO. Karimov praised the great contribution of the Chinese people to the world anti-fascist war. Hailing the trust between both sides and remarkable cooperation in all fields, he said Uzbekistan is ready to enhance coordination and cooperation with China to jointly safeguard global and regional peace. (Xinhua)

Russian Honor Guard: United, we Parade

BEIJING - As Beijing counts down for the Sept. 3 military parade commemorating World War II victory, the honor guard formation from Russia is standing by to march through Tian'anmen Square. As one of 17 foreign formations and representative teams, the Russian Honor Guard is formed by the 76 elite members who were meticulously selected by Russia. "Like China's People's Liberation Army (PLA) Honor Guard, this formation has joined in all major national events, including the Red Square military parade this May," said Alexander Kurov, the leader of the Russian formation. This is the first visit to China for most of the soldiers in the formation, not to mention joining a Chinese military

parade. According to Anton Mikhaylov, the lieutenant of the formation, their team members feel deeply honored to be the last to appear in the parade. He said they have trained thoroughly and march with the precision of a machine. Still, they are nervous. "I keep on reminding myself, this parade is like a battle. Once on the battlefield, I can only go forward," said Mikhaylov. The Russian formation joined a large-scale rehearsal the day after they arrived in Beijing on Aug. 23. "Our training lasts more than six hours every day. We get up at six o'clock in the morning and the training ends at six in the evening," said Dmitry Bobrov, the captain of the Russian Formation. (Xinhua)

Nuclear Power Likely to Generate 12 Pct of UAE's Energy Needs

DUBAI - The United Arab Emirates (UAE) observed Wednesday the start of construction on the fourth nuclear reactor in the UAE's Al-Gharbia region, ENEC said in an e-mailed statement. Energy Minister Suhail Al-Mazrouei and the Emirates Nuclear Energy Corporation (ENEC) were present at the event. Al-Mazrouei called the construction progress a "key milestone" near Barakah, 53 kilometers southwest of Ruwais city, in the Al-Gharbia region. The milestone was achieved "following the commencement of nuclear-related construction, regulated construction activity directly related to the reactor, containment

buildings and supporting structures, for Unit 4, the UAE's fourth nuclear energy reactor," said ENEC. During onsite celebrations marking the progress, the minister received an update presented by ENEC CEO, Mohamed Al-Hammadi, concerning the company's program of delivering safe, clean and reliable nuclear electricity by 2017. "I am extremely proud to be here today at Barakah to witness this momentous occasion as ENEC enters a new development phase through delivery of the only nuclear energy construction site in the world to have four identical nuclear reactors. (More on P4)...(23)