

UNSC Adopts Resolution on Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Friday adopted a resolution to call on all states to refrain from conducting any nuclear weapon test explosion, meanwhile commemorating the 20th anniversary of the signing of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT). Open for signature on Sept. 24, 1996, the legally binding CTBT is a multilateral treaty by which states agree to ban all nuclear explosions. "Over the past 20 years, nuclear test ban has become a common understanding of the international community," said Liu Jieyi, China's perma-



nent representative to the UN, after the council voted on the resolution. "The adoption by the council today of this resolution is of great significance for commemorating the opening for signature of the treaty, reaffirming the purpose of nuclear test ban and advance an early entry into force of the treaty," he added. "China has consistently stood for complete prohibition and thorough destruction of nuclear weapons," said Liu, noting that China has made the commitment of no first use of nuclear weapons and has undertaken un... (More on P4)...(16)

UN Chief Sees G-77 as Crucial Force to Carry out Global Development Goals

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday said that the Group of 77 (G-77) and China are an important force in carrying out the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a blueprint for global development efforts for year leading up to 2030. The statement came as the secretary-general was speaking at the 40th annual meeting of the foreign ministers of the Group of 77, which was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the

annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly. "The United Nations and the G-77 have an invaluable partnership," Ban said. "Together, we have made enormous progress for human rights and human dignity." "The G-77 and China was also a driving force behind the adoption of the 2030



Agenda for Sustainable Development -- our truly transformative plan for the planet and all people," he said. "I call on the G-77 countries to live up to the New York Declaration -- and... (More on P4)...(17)

Syrian Government Makes Aleppo Advance in Major Attack

ALEPPO - The Syrian army and allied militia seized ground north of Aleppo on Saturday, tightening a siege of the city's rebel-held east as it came under fierce air strikes in a major Russian-backed offensive that has left Washington's Syria policy in tatters. The capture of the Handarat camp a few kilometres north of Aleppo marked the first major ground advance of the offensive, which the government announced on

Thursday. Residents of the rebel-held half of the city say warplanes have unleashed unprecedented firepower. Saturday's advance captured the camp for Palestinian refugees on elevated ground overlooking one of the main roads into Aleppo. Handarat had been in rebel hands for years. "Handarat has fallen," an official with one of the main Aleppo rebel groups told Reuters. An army statement... (More on P4)...(18)

Syrian Army Recaptures Key Palestinian Refugee Camp in Aleppo

DAMASCUS - Syrian forces backed by Palestinian groups succeeded Saturday to recapture a camp of Palestinian refugees in the northern province of Aleppo from the hands of rebels, according to state news agency SANA. The capture of Handarat camp, 13 km northeast of Aleppo, came after the Syrian army and Palestinian factions destroyed the last positions of the rebels there, SANA said. Bomb squads started dismantling explosive devic-

es and roadside bombs the rebels had planted. Meanwhile, the rebels' Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, previously known as Nusra Front before breaking ties with al-Qaida, said that the Syrian army and the Palestinian Liwa al-Quds succeeded to take the camp under heavy airstrikes from the Russian air force. Wrestling back control over Handarat consolidates the government forces' control over the key road of Castello, ... (More on P4)...(19)

No EU-U.S. Free Trade Deal during Presidential Term of Barack Obama: EU

BRATISLAVA - There will be no final agreement regarding the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) between the United States and the European Union by the end of this year, EU ministers said Friday. Slovak Economy Minister Peter Ziga made the announcement at a press conference after informal meeting of EU trade and economy ministers in Bratislava on Friday. The EU ministers agreed that the TTIP deal won't be reached by the end of



Barack Obama's presidential term as was previously hoped. The future of the TTIP has remained open, but EU Commissioner for Trade Cecilia Malmström at the press conference rejected the view that the expected biggest trade agreement in the world was "dead". (Xinhua)

UN, Bulgarian Leaders Meet on Syria, Refugee Crisis

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday met with Bulgarian President Rosen Plevneliev, and the two leaders exchanged views on such issues as the Syria conflict and the refugee crisis in Europe. Ban and Plevneliev discussed recent developments in the area of international peace and security, in particular the situation in Syria, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here. They also discussed the large movements of refugees and migrants toward Europe, the spokesman said. The meeting was held at the UN Headquarters in New York on the sidelines of the ongoing annual high-level debate of the UN General Assembly, a week-long event which is to conclude on Monday. (Xinhua)

U.S. Apologizes to Assad for Airstrikes against Syrian Army: Russian FM

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov said Saturday that the United States had apologized to Syrian President Bashar Assad for the airstrikes against Syrian government troops. "Yes, they have apologized," Lavrov said in an interview with the Rossiya 1 television channel. Commenting on restoring truce in the war-torn country, Lavrov said it is only possible on a collective basis, which need the "sincere" cooperation from Washington to separate the so called moderate opposition from terrorist groups. On Sept. 17, the U.S.-led coalition airstrikes killed over 60 Syrian government troops and injured some 100 others in Syria's eastern province of... (More on P4)...(21)

'Habitual Liar' Trump Must be Curbed in Presidential Debate: Clinton

WASHINGTON - It is ninety minutes that could change the world, but Hillary Clinton is already warning that Donald Trump may overwhelm their first presidential debate on Monday if his "habitual lying" is left unchallenged by the moderator. The "prebuttal" from Democratic campaign headquarters came as both candidates hunker down in preparation this weekend, nervously awaiting an estimated television audience of up to 100 million Americans at what opinion polls sug-



gest is the turning point in their race for the White House. Clinton's concern stems from Trump's fast-and-loose rhetorical style, which has been attacked by newspaper fact-checkers but proved devastatingly effective on TV, first against his Republican challengers in the primary and, more recently, in a candidate forum on national security in which he was allegedly allowed to airbrush his past support for the Iraq war. "She will respond when he... (More on P4)...(20)

UN Chief Urges Yemeni Gov't to 'Engage Constructively in Peace Talks'

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday urged the Yemeni government to "engage constructively in peace talks," and to "do all it can to ensure humanitarian actors have access" to the people in need in the war-torn country. During his meeting with Yemeni President Abdrabuh Mansour Hadi, Ban noted with concern "the continued absence of a negotiated settlement to the Yemen conflict," UN spokesman Stephane Du-

jarric told reporters here. "He urged the Government of Yemen to engage constructively in peace talks mediated by his special envoy for Yemen." Meanwhile, Ban expressed deep concern about the severe humanitarian crisis and dire economic situation in Yemen, the spokesman said. "He urged the government to do all it can to ensure humanitarian actors have access." The secretary-general highlighted the terrible and tragic toll... (More on P4)...(22)

SAARC Agrees on Plan to Harmonise Energy Trade



ISLAMABAD - Energy regulators of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) have agreed to have harmonisation of regulations, codes and standards of electricity grids for cross-border electricity trade in the region. After a two-day meeting, the National Electric Power Regulatory Authority (NEPRA) of Pakistan reported on Friday that the regional regulators had an agreement on a plan of action on energy regulations. They agreed that harmonisation of regulations, codes and standards for electricity grids were of vital importance for cross-border electricity trade in the region for which the regional regulators would provide suggestions and proposals to the SAARC secretariat for further discussions in subsequent meetings of the regulators. The regulators also agreed to 'deliberate on regulatory issues relating to cross-border electricity trade with a view to harmonise the elements' for which sharing of studies by international partners would be vital for resolving issues. (Monitoring Desk)

Nieghbor News

China-Canada Economic Cooperation Poised to Enter New Stage

OTTAWA - Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and the visiting Chinese Premier Li Keqiang witnessed here on Thursday the inking of 14 cooperation agreements, which observers believe will push bilateral economic cooperation to a new stage. Among the 14 agreements covering a wide span of fields such as trade, investment, finance, tourism, education and judiciary, economic cooperation is surely a high priority and closer economic ties are regarded as the common concern of the two countries. An improving Sino-Canadian relationship is the strong support for closer economic ties. Trudeau, in pursuit of a friendly attitude towards China, visited the Asian country last

month. Li's trip to Canada, the Chinese premier's first official visit to the country in 13 years, was viewed as reciprocal. "We are willing to make China-Canada relations a leading model for China's ties with major countries in the West," Li told a forum in Montreal during his tightly-scheduled trip. Moreover, analysts pointed out that the economies between China and Canada are highly complementary, and the bilateral economic cooperation is mutually beneficial. China stands to be Canada's second largest trading partner and enjoys an admirably high economic growth rate, while Canada is struggling with a tepid economic growth rate and upward trend of world trade protectionism. (Xinhua)

Iran Woos Denmark for Water, Power Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran has asked Denmark to participate in the country's water and power projects, semi-official Mehr news agency reported Saturday. Iran's Energy Minister Hamid Chitchian met his Danish counterpart Lars Christian Lilleholt in Copenhagen on Friday, reportedly discussed joint cooperation in the field of renewable energy, improving quality of water resources and wastewater treatment. Chitchian said that wastewater treatment is now being carried out in most of the Iranian cities, but taking advantage of modern technologies in water and wastewater treatment is still a venue for

cooperation between private sectors of Iran and Denmark. The meeting also decided that top companies of Denmark would make a visit to Tehran in the near future to discuss venues for boosting bilateral cooperation in water and electricity areas. In a separate meeting with Esben Lunde Larsen, Denmark's Minister for Environment and Food, Chitchian also invited Danish firms to cooperate with their Iranian counterparts to alleviate negative impacts of climate change and to boost water management and irrigation efficiency in the agriculture sector. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Elected to IAMRA Management Committee

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan has been elected member at large to the management committee of the International Association of Medical Regulatory Authorities (IAMRA) during the 12th IAMRA international conference being held in Melbourne, Australia from September 20 to 23. IAMRA is an international agency which registers regulatory authorities of various countries. It is easier for the doctors of a country to move and work in another country if his native country is an IAMRA member as it ensures they meet at least

the minimum standards. Pakistan has been an international leader in the registration of practitioners in medical education. Pakistan Medical and Dental Council (PMDC) President Prof Dr Shabbir Lehri, who was the only candidate elected from Asia, will represent Pakistan at large for the next four years. Other members include Dr Joanna Flynn from Australia, Susan Goldsmith in UK, Dr Tebogo Kgosiesile from South Africa, Dr Heidi Oetter from Canada and Dr Carlos Vital from Brazil. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan to Carry out Modernization of Railways

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov gave a number of recommendations on improvement of the developed program of development and reformation of the country's railway industry in 2017-2030, Turkmen Dovlet Habarlarly state news service reported Sept. 24. The issue was discussed at the Turkmen Cabinet of Ministers' meeting, where Berdimuhamedov noted the importance of reconstruction and electrification of the country's railways, bringing them in line with international standards. Moderniza-

tion of railway sections Ashgabat-Turkmenbashi and Ashgabat-Farab are planned, according to the report. In particular, a construction project will be developed in order to organize the phased implementation of the planned work on the laying of a high-speed steel highway on the Ashgabat-Turkmenbashi section. The modernization of the locomotive fleet is also planned. General overhaul of the main railway infrastructure, functioning on the Turkmenbashi-Farab section is planned for 2017-2022, according to the report. (Trend)