

Consensus on Global Agenda Conducive to success of Upcoming UN summit

UNITED NATIONS - All 193 UN member states Sunday agreed to an ambitious global agenda which features 17 new sustainable development goals that aim, by 2030, to eradicate extreme poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being, and protect the environment, paving the way for a successful UN summit in September. The agreed-upon draft plan, also known as "Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," is expected to be officially adopted at the summit, which will attract more than



150 world leaders at the UN Headquarters in New York. The week-end agreement came at the end of a negotiating process that has spanned more than two years and involved both developed and developing countries, representing the global aspiration for common development

on the basis of win-win cooperation. The participants in the negotiation process were all UN member countries with varying national conditions and different development targets, so naturally, they viewed the same agenda from different perspectives. China for its part has attended the negotiations in a constructive manner, and played a crucial role in bridging the gap and promoting unity among participating countries, laying a solid foundation for the hard-won agreement. Meanwhile, the agreement... (More on P4)...(20)

Russia Slams U.S. Attempts to Provide Air Cover to Syrian Rebels

MOSCOW - Kremlin denounced Monday the U.S. attempts to provide air cover for Syrian rebels, indicating it will ultimately destabilize the country's situation. "We have repeatedly stressed that the assistance, especially financial or technical one, to the Syrian opposition would further destabilize the situation in the country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Once implemented, the plans would benefit the



so-called Islamic State (IS) terrorists, weakening the counter potential of the Syrian capital Damascus, Peskov said. "This is a fundamental disagreement between Moscow and Washington over Syria," he added. On Sunday, U.S. President Barack Obama reportedly authorized air defense to U.S.-backed Syrian rebels against attacks from terrorists or Syrian government forces. (Xinhua)

Obama Poised to Unveil Major Climate Change Plan

Washington - US President Barack Obama will unveil what he called the "biggest, most important step we've ever taken" to combat climate change Monday, slapping tough emission targets on power plants. The president was to deliver his eagerly anticipated remarks at the White House at 2:15 pm (1815 GMT), firing the starting gun on a months-long environmental drive that will shape his legacy. Later this August, Obama is expected to visit the Arctic state of Alaska to highlight the impact of climate change. In September, when he will host Pope Francis at the White House, they are expected to make an impassioned collective call for action. And in December, representatives from around the world will gather in Paris to hash out rules designed to limit global temperature increases to two degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit). View gallery A demonstrator carries a placard reading, "Je suis... (More on P4)...(21)

Sri Lanka's Opposition urges to boost Security for Ex-leader

COLOMBO - Sri Lanka's main opposition, the United People's Freedom Alliance (UPFA), on Monday urged President Maithripala Sirisena to provide adequate security to former President Mahinda Rajapakse who is contesting a parliamentary election this month. The opposition said the life of Rajapakse was under threat and President Sirisena, as the Minister of Defence, should make arrangements to deploy additional security to the former leader. A UPFA member, on condition of anonymity, told Xinhua that several opposition members, in support of Rajapakse, had requested the government to increase his security, but the request had not been implemented to date. A UPFA senior member and candidate, Dilan Perera, told journalists Sunday that a suspicious character had visited Rajapakse's election office in the north western province of Kurunegala recently, but had later gone when an attempt was made to verify his identity. "We have information that this man had visited the location for about 2-3 days," Perera said, adding that this led to believe that Rajapakse's life could be under threat. His spokesman Rohan Weliwita said Monday that a complaint alleging that there was a plot to assassinate the former leader had been lodged with the Kurunegala police on Sunday by UPFA member Salinda Dissanayake. Weliwita himself on Sunday requested Election Commission Dayananda Dissanayake to increase Rajapakse's security by providing him additional police officers, vehicles and communications equipment. Rajapakse will be contesting the parliamentary elections scheduled to be held on Aug 17 from the Kurunegala (Xinhua)

We Want Iran Cooperation, not Meddling, Gulf Arabs tell Kerry

DOHA - Iran's nuclear deal should bring stability and "good neighborliness" rather than interference, Gulf Arab states told U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry on Monday as they began talks on the merits of its historic accord with world powers. Qatari Foreign Minister Khalid al-Attiyah, wel-

coming Kerry to Qatar for the talks with the six countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), said the alliance wanted to spare the region "from any dangers and threats from nuclear weapons". This should be done by authorizing the use of nuclear technology for peaceful purposes in line

with international rules, he said, speaking for the GCC as host of the meeting. "We look forward with hope to the nuclear agreement ... leading to the preservation of security and stability in the region, and we emphasize the importance of cooperation with Iran based on princi-



ples of good neighborliness, non-interference in internal affairs and solving disputes peacefully." (Reuters)

Community Building, Regional Cooperation High on Agenda of ASEAN Ministerial meetings

KUALA LUMPUR - Foreign ministers from 10 ASEAN countries and their dialogue partners are gathering here for the 48th ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (AMM), which is set to open on Tuesday, as well as a series of related regional meetings. The meeting has attracted particular attention as the ten-nation bloc is in the final spurt to realize the goal of establishing an ASEAN Community, which involves a plan to create a common economic, political-security and socio-cultural region by the end of this year.

ASEAN foreign ministers will discuss mainly the establishment of ASEAN Community and progress on ASEAN Community's Post-2015 Vision at the annual meeting, according to Malaysia's foreign ministry. Following the AMM is a series of related meetings, namely the Post Ministerial Conferences, the 16th ASEAN Plus Three Foreign Ministers' Meeting, the 5th East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers Meeting and the 22nd ASEAN Regional Forum. Foreign ministers of the bloc's dialogue partners, including China's Foreign

Minister Wang Yi and U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry, will hold meetings with their ASEAN counterparts to discuss regional issues and promote ties. Xu Bu, the Chinese ambassador to ASEAN, regarded the meetings as an important platform for regional cooperation in trade and economics, communication, food security and non-traditional security in East Asia. As one of ASEAN's important dialogue partners, the establishment of ASEAN Community will further facilitate China-ASEAN ties... (More on P4)...(22)

Iran Urges Normalization of ties with Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Iran and Saudi Arabia have potentials to normalize bilateral relations and to interact constructively over the regional issues, Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Amir-Abdollahian was quoted as saying by Alalam Arabic language satellite channel on Monday. "We believe that the coercive policies of Saudi Arabia to solve regional issues, particularly those of Yemen, are strategic mistake," Amir-Abdollahian said. "Although we do not agree with these policies of Saudi Arabia, we think bilateral rela-

tions should be normalized," he said. Tehran and Riyadh should start "straightforward, effective and constructive talks to fight terrorism and extremism and to restore security and stability to the region," Amir-Abdollahian said. The Iranian official added that Iran has condemned the attacks by Saudi-led coalition on Yemen and political dialogue is the only way out of current situation in the Arab state. Saudi Arabia has long accused Iran of arming and financing Houthis Shiite fighters, an accusation strongly rejected by... (More on P4)...(23)

India to Host Summit Meeting with South Pacific Island Nations

NEW DELHI - India will host a summit meeting with 14 South Pacific island nations in the western city of Jaipur, local media reported on Monday. Describing the Forum for India-Pacific Islands Cooperation (FIPIIC) as "a first step toward greater engagement with the region," the Hindu daily said such a move "is important from an economic and geostrategic standpoint." The summit, slated for Aug. 21, is expected to pave the way for agreements in agriculture, food processing, fisheries, solar energy, e-net-

works for coordination in telemedicine and tele-education, space cooperation and climate change, all of which were mentioned as areas of potential cooperation by Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Fiji last year, said the report. India has also given the island nations visa-on-arrival for their nationals, funds for small business, line of credit for a co-generation power plant for Fiji, and a special adaptation fund for technical assistance and capacity building for countering global warming. (Xinhua)

Cambodian PM Says no early National Election in 2018

KANDAL - Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said Monday that there will be no early national election in 2018 because the political agreement on July 22, 2014 between him and opposition leader Sam Rainsy did not state such an early vote. "The next national election will be on schedule -- on Sunday in the fourth week of July 2018, there will be no early election because the political agreement on July 22 did not state an early election," he said in a speech during the inauguration ceremony of a China-funded Takhmau Bridge here. The prime

minister acknowledged that he used to verbally agree with Sam Rainsy, president of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party (CNRP), on April 9, 2014 to hold the next election in February 2018, five months earlier than the schedule, but during the political negotiations on July 22, 2014, the CNRP leader did not include the point in the agreement. "All old and new parties can prepare themselves for the July 2018 national election," he said. Meanwhile, Hun Sen, who has been in power for 30 years, warned that the country would fall into instability

again if the future ruling party was not his Cambodian People's Party (CPP). "Peace is very important for the country. I still continue to say that besides the leadership of the CPP, the other parties will bring instability," he said. Hun Sen and Sam Rainsy struck a political agreement on July 22, 2014 that saw the opposition CNRP end its 10-month boycott of parliament following the disputed election in 2013. Under the deal, Hun Sen agreed to CNRP's proposals for electoral reform and power sharing in the parliament. (Xinhua)

Neighbour News

Germany to Open Bank in Iran to Facilitate Trade

TEHRAN - Central Bank of Iran (CBI) announced Monday that Germany will set up a bank in Iran to facilitate its trade transactions with the Iranian side. In a recent visit by German Vice-Chancellor and Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Sigmar Gabriel, who headed a high-ranking German delegation to Tehran, it was agreed that the European country establish a bank in Iran, CBI governor Valiollah Seif was quoted as saying by Tasnim news agency. There is no restriction for foreign banks to establish financial institutions in Iran, Seif said. "According to the regulations of free trade zones in Iran, foreign countries can establish new banks or bank branches in the

free trade zone areas," he said. On July 19, Gabriel visited Tehran to discuss the boost of economic ties with post-sanctions Iran. After more than two weeks of intensive talks in Vienna, Austria's capital city, six world major countries, including China, France, Germany, Russia, Britain and the United States, along with Tehran agreed on July 14 on an accord concerning Iran's nuclear program. Iran has been a target of UN and western sanctions due to its alleged attempts to build nuclear weapons. The landmark deal is expected to put Iran on the path of sanctions relief on its economy and financial institutions but more limits on its nuclear program. (Xinhua)

Pakistan to Become most Important after CPEC Completion: President

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussian said that China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would usher in economic revival in Pakistan and called upon the nation to pray and make efforts for its timely completion. Addressing the 39th convocation ceremony of the National University of Computer and Emerging Sciences here on Monday, he stated that CPEC would not only be beneficial for Pakistan but for all the countries of the region, noting that it would transform the fate of the region. Mamnoon said that Pakistan would become the most important country of the region after the completion of CPEC and it would generate great employment opportuni-

ties as well. He emphasized upon the youth to make themselves ready for taking advantage of these opportunities. He expressed the hope that CPEC would strengthen Pakistan's economy. The president called upon the universities to play their role in sensitizing the new generation about the requirements of the contemporary world and in completion of national agenda. He said that the universities should play their part in education and for economic progress of Pak. In modern age, economics has precedence over politics, he said. "We shall have to stabilise and strengthen our country's economy through hard work and honesty," (Agencies)

China Provides Emergency Aid to Myanmar flood-Hit Regions

KALAY - The Chinese Embassy to Myanmar on Monday provided humanitarian aid to Myanmar's flood-hit regions. A rescue mission led by Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar Hong Liang handed the first batch of donations to the flood-stricken people in Kalay, then to people in Rakhine State and central Magway Region, according to a press release of the embassy. The Chinese rescue operations will cover 1,545 families in Kalay and 20,000 families in Sittway, the release said, adding that a special family rescue package was designed to provide the flood-stricken people with daily necessities. The total fund of the program for Rakhine State as well as Sagaing and Magway regions amounted to about 300,000 U.S. dollars. "We will provide continuous support for the flood-affected people and continue the rescue

operations in the disaster areas," said Ambassador Hong Liang. The embassy also called on Chinese enterprises, companies and institutions in Myanmar to actively follow up the flood rescue program and collect charity donations as well as goods to take part in the flood rescue action. "We are very glad to receive humanitarian goods donated by China and hope for the further strengthening of relationship between Myanmar and China in the future," U Myo Thar, a flood victim in Sagaing, said. Since June, heavy monsoon rains have left at least 47 people dead and affected more than 210,000 others in 12 out of Myanmar's 14 states and regions, according to the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement. Sagaing Region has accommodated more than 12,000 flood victims of over 2,500 households at eight relief camps. (Xinhua)

Tajikistan to Pay Off Debt to Uzbekistan by 2015

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan plans to pay off its debt to Uzbekistan by the end of 2015, the Tajik Finance Ministry said Monday. Tajikistan's debt to Uzbekistan declined from 8.03 million U.S. dollars to 2.99 million dollars during the first half of this year. 8

Meanwhile, Tajikistan's foreign debt fell 34.6 million dollars to 2.1 billion dollars, equivalent to 19.5 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). Tajikistan will also pay down 610,000 dollars to Kazakhstan and 4.5 million dollars to Iran by the end of this year. (Xinhua)