

Security Council to Hold Next Round of Straw Poll on UN Chief Selection on Aug. 29

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council is scheduled to hold next round of straw poll to select the next UN secretary-general on Aug. 29, the council president announced here Friday. Ramlan Bin Ibrahim, the Malaysian UN ambassador who holds the rotating council president for August, told reporters here that the time for the next round of straw poll was set after consultations in the 15-nation UN body. "The council members agreed to meet on the afternoon of Monday, the



29th of August," Ibrahim said. This will be the third informal poll by the Security Council behind closed doors since July 21, the council did not reveal the result of each round of voting, but the outcome was leaked to the press and diplomats here. The council members will vote "encourage," "discourage" or "no opinion" about the 11 candidates after former Croatian foreign minister Vesna Pusic became the first of the 12 contenders to leave the race early this month. (Xinhua)

UN Agencies Slam Rising Fighting in Yemen

UNITED NATIONS - The UN secretary-general's special envoy for Yemen, Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed, strongly condemned the increasing violations to the cessation of hostilities in Yemen, a UN spokesman said here Friday. The UN envoy also urged the parties to speed up their efforts to find a comprehensive, political solution to the conflict, Farhan Haq, the deputy UN spokesman, said at a daily news briefing here. "The United Nations remains fully committed to bringing peace to Yemen, but the process requires

good faith and concessions from all sides," he said. The special envoy called on all parties to show restraint and refrain from any action which undermines efforts to bringing about a peaceful, political solution to the conflict. Meanwhile, UN humanitarian coordinator in Yemen Jamie McGoldrick also voiced alarm on Friday at the intensification of violence across the country. He said that the people of Yemen continued to bear the brunt of the suffering as a result of the inability of the parties to find a political solution. (Xinhua)

IS Kidnaps 2,000 Civilians While Evacuating Last Position in Syria's Manbej

DAMASCUS - The Islamic State (IS) militants have kidnapped nearly 2,000 civilians while evacuating their last position in the northern town of Manbej near Turkey on Friday, state news agency SANA and a monitor group reported. A convoy of 500 vehicles carrying the IS militants and civilians started leaving Manbej, in the northern countryside of the northern province of Aleppo, toward the town of Jarablus, another town in northern



Aleppo, said the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights. The IS withdrawal comes apparently as part of mediation by... (More on P4)... (24)

Biden Due in Turkey to Mend Soured Ties Amid Post-Coup Rift

ANKARA - U.S. Vice President Joe Biden will pay a visit to Turkey on August 24, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said in a press conference in Ankara on Saturday. Yildirim said the United States attitude over the coup attempt had a positive shift as it started to take some action, while addressing to senior Turkish media figures at Cankaya Palace, U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman General Joseph Dunford was the first senior U.S. official to visit the country on August

1 following the coup attempt. Turkish FM Cavusoglu said on Friday that a delegation from the U.S. Justice Department would visit Turkey on Aug. 23-24 to discuss the extradition of Fetullah Gulen. He added that Vice President Joe Biden and Secretary of State John Kerry were also due to arrive in Turkey but the dates were yet to be confirmed. Turkish Justice Minister Bekir Bozdogan told press said "four specialists" would make up the delegation. (Xinhua)

Turkey Sneers at UN Rights Chief for "Revenge" Comments on Failed Coup

ANKARA - Turkey slammed Saturday a top UN human rights official for saying Ankara should stem its "thirst for revenge" after a failed coup attempt. A statement on the official web site of Turkish Foreign Ministry refuted people's rights were being violated in Turkey. The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein called on Ankara this week to uphold the rights of the detainees held since the July 15 failed coup attempt.



Authorities have suspended, detained or begun investigating tens of thousands of soldiers, police, judges, journalists and civil servants for alleged links to the coup attempt, which Turkish authorities blame on... (More on P4)... (25)

Thai PM Calls for Public's Patience after Series of Bomb Blasts

BANGKOK - Thai Prime Minister on Friday called for public's patience and unity to help rid of bad people behind the bomb attacks that swept Thailand's middle and south in the past 24 hours. Prayut made the statement in a special televised program on Friday night right after presiding over Thai Queen's 84-year-old birthday ceremony. Expressing sorrow for families of the victims, the prime minister has promised that his government would do the utmost to alleviate victims as well as investigate the tragedy. He said the government would look after the safety of all diplomats and foreigners in the country and fully care for those affected. Prayut asked the public not to be panic and not to make any assumption as the culprits are still unclear. Time should be given for investigations to proceed. Yet he alerted the public that "there are still bad people in Thai society who tried to act before the referendum day and on this auspicious day known as Queen Sirikit's birthday and Mother's day of all Thai people." (Xinhua)

UN Names Former Austrian Chancellor as Special Envoy on Youth Employment

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Friday announced the appointment of Werner Faymann of Austria as his special envoy on youth employment. The appointment, which was announced on International Youth Day, celebrated annually on Aug. 12, comes at a time when persistently high levels of youth unemployment, poor quality and low paying jobs remain a concern globally. "Young people are disproportionately affected



by unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment and working poverty," UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric said. At present, over 73 million youth are unemployed and young people remain three times more likely than older adults to experience unemployment. The situation has been exacerbated by the lingering effects... (More on P4)... (26)

WHO Reminds Travelers Vaccination against Measles, Rubella Before Rio Olympic

GENEVA - The World Health Organization (WHO) Tuesday reminds persons who plan to attend the Olympic Games to get vaccinated especially against measles and rubella at least two weeks before traveling. The Olympic Games are scheduled to take place from Aug. 5 to 21 in Brazil, followed by the Paralympic Games during the period from Sept. 7 to 18. In the Americas, endemic transmission of measles was interrupted in 2002 and transmission of... (More on P4)... (27)

Iraqi Ambassador Asks Finland to Give Refugees More Time

HELSINKI - Iraqi ambassador to Finland Matheel Al-Sabti has appealed to Finland to allow Iraqi asylum seekers to remain in the northern European country "at least some time longer," media reported on Friday. In an interview with the newsweekly Suomen Kuvalehti, the ambassador said that the war in Iraq is now in a "crucial phase". Al-Sabti said it may be a question of only a few months when the country starts to stabilize and the people are likely to be willing to go home voluntarily once the expected stability is achieved. The ambassador... (More on P4)... (28)

Bernie Sanders Endorses Hillary Clinton for 2016 U.S. Election

WASHINGTON - Hillary Clinton's bitter rival in the Democratic Party presidential nomination race Bernie Sanders on Tuesday endorsed Clinton for the 2016 U.S. election. "Secretary Clinton has won the Democratic nominating process," said Sanders during his first joint campaign appearance with Clinton after a chaotic primary season. "She will be the Democratic nominee for president and I intend to do everything I can to make certain she will be the next president of the United States," said Sanders. Sanders' endorsement came more than a month after Clinton clinched the Democratic Party nomination, and brought to the end a chaotic and divisive Democratic primary season where Sanders questioned Clinton's judgement as the country's future leader. (Xinhua)

S. Korea Needs to Think Twice before Deploying THAAD

BEIJING - A three-day visit to Beijing by six South Korean opposition lawmakers has deepened the political divide in the country over the deployment of a U.S. missile defense system. The lawmakers, all critics of the deployment of the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD), were travelling to Beijing at a time when relations between South Korea and China are rapidly deteriorating. They are, however, being reviled by some South Korean politicians as "betrayers" who could jeopardize national security, and South Korean President Park Geun-hye also criticized them as sympathizers with China. Such accusations have triggered strong reactions among South Korean opposition parties. A major South Korean opposition lawmaker said it is possible to impeach President Park over her turning... (More on P4)... (29)

Neighbor News

Yi Meets Modi, Sushma; South China Sea Issue Left Out

NEW DELHI - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Saturday met Prime Minister Narendra Modi and also discussed "issues of mutual importance" with Indian External Affairs Minister Sushma Swaraj in New Delhi. "A morning for neighbourly engagement," External Affairs Ministry Spokesman Vikas Swarup tweeted after Wang called on Modi. He later met Sushma Swaraj, after which the

Indian and Chinese sides went into delegation-level talks. Wang on Friday met Goa Chief Minister Laxmikant Parsekar and REVIEWED the logistics and security arrangements for Chinese President Xi Jinping's visit to the state in October for the BRICS summit. Wang was among the first foreign ministers to be welcomed in India after the Modi government took office in May 2014. (Monitoring Desk)

US Sanctions on Independent States Wrong, Futile: Rouhani



TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has criticized the United States for the imposition of economic sanctions against independent countries, saying such policy is wrong and futile. "In the world's trade and economic system, freedom of trade and economic relations should exist between countries within the framework of international regulations," Rouhani said in a meeting with Cuba's Vice President of the Coun-

cil of Ministers, Ricardo Cabrisa Ruiz, in Tehran on Saturday. Iran and Cuba have both been the target of various US sanctions over the past decades. However, sanctions against Iran over its nuclear program were stipulated to be removed under last year's agreement between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which went into effect on January 16. (PressTV)

SECP Launches Improved Bilingual Website

ISLAMABAD - The Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan (SECP) on Friday launched its new fully-featured bilingual website to provide comprehensive yet accessible information to the public. The redesigned website will also facilitate the media to better understand the SECP and its regulatory regime. "We believe that this new site will allow our visitors to have a very informative experience as we continue to grow and assert our regulatory authority," said SECP Chairman Zafar Hujazi in a statement. The new website has a clean design, improved functionality and enhanced rich content focused on the SECP's mission to facilitate the development of a modern corporate sector, based on sound regulatory principles. The website has extensive content related to setting up a new company, licensing regulations for financial companies, latest market data and the complete range of rules that the SECP has established. Furthermore, visitors can lodge complaints online, search/verify registered companies and log in to the SECP's eService, Virtual One Stop Shop and the Jamapunji portal. The Urdu version of the website provides comprehensive information on company registry, compliance requirements, licensing procedures and translations of its rules. Translations of all its laws have been included, except the Companies Ordinance, 1984, which is expected to be replaced. (Monitoring Desk)

Number of Joint-Stock Companies Increasing in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan attaches great importance to the creation of joint-stock companies as part of the comprehensive measures carried out in the country for transition to the market economy, the 'Neutral Turkmenistan' newspaper reported. A total of 242 joint-stock companies were registered in the country as of Jan.1, 2016, or 17 companies more than in 2014, according to the statistical reports. Only 34 of 2,209 pri-

vatised facilities were converted into joint-stock companies as a result of the measures for denationalization and privatization of state property between 1994 and 2014. The 'Neutral Turkmenistan' newspaper reported that Turkmen Hemrasy joint-stock company for rendering satellite communication services can serve as a bright example. State institutions are holders of the whole block of shares of this joint-stock company. (Trend)