

Putin, Obama Might Meet on Sidelines of G20 Summit

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Barack Obama may communicate with each other on the sidelines of the G20 summit to be held in China on Sept. 4-5, the Russian news agency TASS reported Tuesday.

Earlier on Monday, Ben Rhodes, Obama's deputy national security adviser, said the U.S. president hopes to meet his Russian counterpart to discuss some issues during the summit. "We also hope (for such



an opportunity)," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying. "We are ready, although the final decision has not been made yet," he added. The last Putin-Obama meeting took place at the International Climate Change Conference in Paris in late November. Apart from the G20 summit in China, another likely occasion for a meeting between the two presidents this year is the APEC summit to be held on Nov. 18-19 in Peru. (Xinhua)

UN Seeks to Build Resilience on Disaster Risks in Africa

NAIROBI - The UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) announced on Tuesday that it will host a major conference of governments and partners in Africa which will examine progress in disaster risk reduction across the continent. The UNISDR said the conference to be held in November will also examine the ongoing challenges of responding to extreme weather events

which have left 60 million people in severe need across the region. Amjad Abbashar, head of UNISDR's Regional Office for Africa, said the conference comes at a key moment when many governments, UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations will still be grappling with the consequences of one of the strongest El-Ninos ever recorded. "In addition, climate ... (More on P4)...(16)

More than 111,000 Migrants Saved on Mediterranean Sea-Route this Year: IOM

GENEVA - The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) reported Tuesday that some 111,500 migrants have been rescued at sea on the central Mediterranean passage linking North Africa with Italy since the beginning of 2016.

By far the deadliest route for maritime migrants seeking to reach European shores, the sea-passage has already claimed the lives of 2,726 individuals so far this year. An additional 386 mi-



grants and refugees have drowned on the eastern Mediterranean route separating Turkey and Greece, while 53 have

died crossing the Western Mediterranean and Western African passages. According to IOM figures, over 272,000 maritime ar-

rivals have been recorded in Europe so far this year, most of them in Greece (163,105 entries) and Italy (106,461). (Xinhua)

Putin to Meet Japanese, South Korean Leaders: Kremlin

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and South Korean President Park Geun-hye on the sidelines of the upcoming Eastern Economic Forum in Vladivostok on Friday and Saturday, the Kremlin said Tuesday. Putin and Abe plan to discuss on Friday "a wide range of bilateral cooperation issues, including in the political, trade-economic, energy, cultural and humanitarian spheres," a

Kremlin statement said. In a related development, Russian presidential aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters that Putin would visit Japan in December and that agendas of the trip would be discussed during the two leaders' meeting in Vladivostok. The relationship between Moscow and Tokyo became increasingly strained after Japan slapped new sanctions on Russia in response to its annexation of Crimea in 2014 and the crisis ... (More on P4)...(17)

Turkish FM Sets Visa Liberalization Deadline for EU

ATHENS - Turkey will not continue the implementation of the agreement struck with European Union in March to stem the refugee flow if Europe fails to grant visa free travel to Turkish nationals by October this year, Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has warned. The Turkish official made the remarks during an interview on the sidelines of his unofficial one day visit on Sunday to Crete island, where he held talks with his Greek counterpart Nikos Kotzias. The interview was printed on

Greek newspaper "Kathimerini" (Daily) on Tuesday.

Under March's agreement, Ankara has stepped up efforts to crack down on the smuggling rings which have been sending thousands of refugees and migrants from Turkey's shores to the Greek islands on boats.

The results were impressive. Only a few dozen people per day have been landing on the Greek shores over the next three months, instead of the thousands who were reaching Greece on a daily



basis in particular since the summer of 2015. Since January 2015 more than a million people have crossed the Aegean Sea on their journey to Europe, while some 3,500 have perished in the waters

across the Mediterranean. In exchange for Ankara's cooperation, among other terms, the visa requirement for travel to Europe for Turkish citizens would be abolished within months. (Xinhua)

Turkmenistan, Austria Interested in Energy Partnership

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan is a promising partner for Austria and a number of countries of the European Union (EU) in the sphere of energy security and the possibility to diversify the sources of raw materials supply, the Turkmen oil and gas complex said in a message on Tuesday. According to a decree of Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov, the country's delegation has been sent to Austria's capital, where the 8th meeting of the joint Turkmen-Austrian commission and a business forum will be held from Aug. 31 to Sept. 3.

The upcoming forum is aimed at implementation of bilateral agreements reached between Turkmenistan and Austria, as

well as at further development of relation between the two countries, according to the decree.

Talks were held at the highest level in May 2015 during Berdimuhamedov's official visit to Vienna, where the interest of European countries in natural gas supplies from Turkmenistan was noted. Austria supports projects, which ensure diversification of gas routes and it is in tune with Turkmenistan's position, said then Austria's Former President Heinz Fischer. The Turkmen-Austrian memorandum of understanding signed in 2011 to intensify cooperation in the field of energy became one of the first steps to create the appropriate contractual legal base, he added. (Trend)

Punjab Assembly Legislates to Ban Child Labour, Help Terror Victims

LAHORE - The Pakistan's Punjab Assembly passed three government bills providing for ban on child labour, relief for victims of terrorism and increase in pecuniary jurisdiction of District Appellate Courts, observes Free and Fair Election Network (FAFEN).

The Punjab Assembly met for two hours and 46 minutes. The sitting started at 1552 hours against the scheduled time of 1400 hours. The Speaker presided over the entire sitting while the Deputy Speaker was not present. The Leader of the House (Chief Minister) did not attend the sitting. The Leader of the Opposition attended the sitting for two hours and 19 minutes.

Twenty-seven lawmakers (7%) were present at outset and 73 (19%) at the adjournment of sitting. The parliamentary lead-

er of PML-Z attended the sitting. Five minority members were present.

Provincial Law Minister presented the Annual Activity Reports of Faisalabad, Multan, Gujranwala and Rawalpindi Development Authorities, and Parks & Horticulture Authority Lahore for the year 2014-15.

The House passed the Punjab Prohibition of Child Labour at Brick Kilns Bill 2016, the Punjab Civil Courts (Amendment) Bill 2016 and the Punjab Civilian Victims of Terrorism (Relief and Rehabilitation) Bill 2016. Ten lawmakers participated in the debate consuming 50 minutes of the proceedings.

As many as six out of 11 Starred Questions were responded to while three others were deferred and one was disposed of due to the absence of movers. The lawmakers also ... (More on P4)...(20)

UN Chief Reiterates Support for Myanmar's Peace Process

NAY PYI TAW - Visiting UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Tuesday reiterated the international organization's continued support for Myanmar's peace process and the new government's building of the democratic society.

Ban made the remarks in a joint press conference in Nay Pyi Taw following his meeting with Myanmar State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi. The remarks also came a day before the holding of the country's 21st Century Panglong Peace Conference in the capital.

His coming to Myanmar at this time shows such support for the country, Ban said, adding that he is delighted to be invited to the conference.

Hailing Myanmar's transition, Ban expressed appreciation over the former leadership of U Thein Sein's handling for harmonious transition for democracy, saying that the new government still has the challenge with the peace process, which is really expected by the international community. (Xinhua)

ADB Warns of Water Resources Shortage in Asia-Pacific Region

MANILA - With a predicted population of 5.2 billion by 2050 and 22 megacities by 2030, a report by Asian Development Bank has warned the region's finite water resources will be under enormous pressure, especially with increasing climate variability.

"Recent estimates indicate up to 3.4 billion people could be living in water-stressed areas of Asia by 2050," the Asia Development Outlook 2016 says. Overall, the report notes progress in strengthening water security in Asia and the Pacific over the past five years citing that



three years ago 38 out of 49 countries were identified as "water insecure." But that number has gone down to 29 countries in 2016, the report says.

The report assesses water security in five key dimensions, namely household

access, economic viability, urban services, restoring rivers and ecosystems and resilience to water-related disasters.

Advanced economies such as Australia, Japan and New Zealand consistently lead ... (More on P4)...(18)

Ban Ki-moon Awarded NUS Honorary Doctorate in Singapore

SINGAPORE - United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was conferred an Honorary Degree of Doctor of Letters by National University of Singapore (NUS) on Tuesday during his two-day visit to the city state.

Ban was conferred the honorary doctorate by Singapore's president, NUS Chancellor Tony Tan Keng Yam in a conferment ceremony held at Istana. The honorary degree was awarded in recognition of Ban's international efforts to promote sustainable development, human rights, global peace and security.

NUS President Prof. Tan Chorh Chuan said NUS is honored and privileged to

confer the honorary doctorate. "Ban's global leadership has helped to improve and secure the well-being of peoples throughout the world. We celebrate and are inspired by his determined efforts to find solutions to the most pressing challenges facing mankind today," added Tan. Ban thanked NUS for the recognition. "For the past decade as Secretary-General, I have sought to promote not only an effective and responsive United Nations, but also a greater spirit of collective purpose. We need greater compassion among people. And we need stronger solidarity among nations." (Xinhua)

France Threatens to Halt Talks on TTIP with Washington

PARIS - France would halt talks with the United States over the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) for failure to outline clear common trade rules, Trade Minister Matthias Fekl said Tuesday. "There is no more political support in France for these negotiations. There should be an absolute clear end so that we can restart them on a good basis," Fekl told RMC radio.

France would ask to end negotiations over TTIP at meeting of European Union trade ministers in

Bratislava scheduled for Sept. 23, according to the minister. "Negotiations are not worthy to the historical relationship between Europe and the United States which they give nothing or little (to make talks progressing)," he said.

After three years of talks, negotiators from the EU and the United States failed to bridge differences mainly on improving transparency, guaranteeing food safety and facilitating access of European small and medium-sized companies to U.S. markets. (Xinhua)

Canadian PM Says to Keep, Strengthen "Strong Friendship" with China

BEIJING - Visiting Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said here on Tuesday that he was "ready to keep and strengthen the strong friendship" between Canada and China. Trudeau made the remarks in a brief meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in Beijing.

It is good to start a stronger relationship, Trudeau said. Li said the two countries had witnessed deepening

relations in such areas as politics, trade, culture and people-to-people exchanges since the establishment of diplomatic relations 46 years ago. Both are facing broad prospects for bilateral relations and cooperation, Li said. He said the Chinese side was ready to work with the new Canadian government to create a new development era for bilateral ties and reciprocity. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Launches 1st National New Media Open Platform

BEIJING - Forty-two Chinese media outlets were the initial members of the country's first new media platform, after they inked an agreement Tuesday at a launch event at Xinhua News Agency headquarters, Beijing.

The platform, which will integrate and centralize the distribution of news via an app and website, will feature a syndicated news distribution systems that will not only help avoid plagiarism but also improve media convergence, according

to the agreement. Mainstream media outlets must expand their communication channels and influence through the Internet, it said. Xinhua has actively sought to modernize the way in which it publishes news, such as the recently updated version of its mobile app, which features real-time reporting through an "on-the-ground" service. Thanks to mobile networking technology, the "on-the-ground" service allows reports to be ... (More on P4)...(19)

Iran in Solidarity with Iraq to Oppose Slaughter of Innocents

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry strongly condemned the deadly bomb attack in Iraq's Karbala province which claimed the lives of 15 people, semi-official Mehr news agency reported Tuesday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qasemi expressed sympathy with the families of the victims and the Iraqi government.

"Terrorists who carry out these wicked as-

saults and slaughter innocent people are fully aware that they are drawing their last breaths in Iraq," Qasemi was quoted as saying.

The Iranian spokesman hoped all people in Iraq would join hands in restoring peace and prosperity to their country. On Sunday, a bomb attack ripped through a wedding in the south of Baghdad in Iraq's province of Karbala, killing at least 15 people. (Xinhua)