

China, US Law Experts Discuss Human Rights Issues

BEIJING - Experts from China and the United States held talks on various human rights topics during the Sixth Sino-American Dialogue on Rule of Law and Human Rights in Beijing. The two-day event, which started on Monday, brought together 40 experts, scholars, judges and lawyers from the two countries to discuss protecting the interests of people involved in legal cases, human rights protection in judicial reform and guiding lawyers to contribute to the judicial system. At Monday's opening ceremony,



Cui Yuying, deputy director of the State Coun-

cil Information Office, urged the two countries

to view each other's human rights progress ob-

jectively and reasonably, and fully understand

the differences resulting from history, culture, political systems and the stages of economic and social development. According to a statement released Tuesday during the meeting, American attendees expressed confidence in the rule of law in China, praising the country's progress in the realm of human rights and the role of legal reform in solving historical problems. The event is jointly organized by the China Foundation for Human Rights Development, China Society for Human Rights Research ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

UN Passes Iranian-Proposed Nuclear Disarmament Resolution

TEHRAN - The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has passed a resolution proposed by Iran aimed at bringing about the disarmament of nuclear powers. On Monday, the Assembly voted 121 against 48 in favor of the non-binding resolution, which had already been cleared by its First Committee, aka Disarmament and International Security Committee. The voting saw 12 abstentions. The resolution demands practical action by all nuclear-armed countries toward

disarmament and the promotion of international stability and security for all. It also demands unilateral steps by such countries to scale down their nuclear arsenals as well as more transparency regarding their nuclear arms capabilities and implementation of international agreements. The Islamic Republic had devised the resolution based on the ratifications of the Review Conferences of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty in 1995, 2000, and 2010. *(PressTV)*

Zarif, Lavrov Stress Joint Efforts to end Terrorism in Syria

TEHRAN - Iran and Russia have once again emphasized their determination to continue joint efforts aimed at boosting the fight against the Takfiri terrorist groups wreaking havoc in Syria. In a telephone conversation on Tuesday, Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, discussed the latest developments in the Middle East region, particularly the situation in Syria. Zarif and Lavrov agreed that Tehran and Moscow

should continue coordinated anti-terror efforts based on the agreements reached during the recent rounds of international talks held in the Austrian capital, Vienna, on the deadly crisis in Syria. The two top diplomats further underlined the necessity for a political solution to the crisis in Syria based on the high-level international discussions. Two conferences were held on the Syria crisis in October and November in Vienna. The parties to the talk, ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Syria's Fractured Opposition Seeks Elusive Unity Against Assad

RIYADH - Syria's divided rebel and opposition groups are trying to forge a common stance to oust President Bashar al-Assad but the absence of prominent activists and a main Kurdish force from their talks in Riyadh shows that unity remains elusive. Saudi Arabia, a strong supporter of rebels fighting for four years to topple Assad, is hosting the opposition this week in the most ambitious attempt yet to find an agreed platform ahead of talks with the government to end Syria's conflict. Bringing the

fragmented opposition together is seen by its backers as a crucial step to end a civil war which started with protests against Assad in 2011 and quickly drew in rival Sunni and Shi'ite Muslim powers across the Middle East. Shi'ite Iran, Assad's main regional supporter, has criticized the meeting in the Sunni Muslim kingdom, saying it is designed to harm efforts to reach a peaceful solution to a war which has killed 250,000 people and displaced 12 million. At a Riyadh hotel where the talks will start on



Wednesday, security was stepped up and journalists were ejected as fighters and opposition leaders gathered. Special forces soldiers with body armor and assault rifles

Japan Launches Anti-Terrorism Intelligence Unit

TOKYO - The Japanese government on Tuesday launched an anti-terrorism intelligence unit charged with intelligence gathering on global militant groups. While operating under the auspices of the Foreign Ministry, the unit will be headed up by the prime minister's office and comprise other governmental and security-related entities. The unit was set up earlier than initially planned, in light of the deadly



Nov. 13 Paris attacks and as Japan now seeks to ramp up efforts to fortify itself ahead of the hosting

of a number of high-profile international events, including the Group of Seven summit next year. The Counterterrorism Unit-Japan is to be set up within the Foreign Ministry. ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

India Takes Number of Steps to Tackle Threat of IS

NEW DELHI - India Tuesday said that it has taken a number of steps to check the spread of the influence of the Islamic State in this country. "The government has adopted a series of strategies to tackle the spread of Islamic State in India. A counter-radicalisation and de-radicalisation strategy has been initiated," junior Home Minister Kiren Rijiju told the Parliament. He added: "The government is also planning to check the threat through



cultural, education and employment activities." Sources said that the Indian government has also asked the intelli-

gence agencies to keep a tab on youths who are vulnerable to recruitment by terror organizations. *(Xinhua)*

Iraqi Security Forces Retake Part of IS-Held Ramadi, 39 Killed in Clashes

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces on Tuesday recaptured a large district in western the city of Ramadi, seized earlier by the Islamic State (IS) militant group, while a total of 39 people were killed in fierce clashes and air strikes against the extremist militants in and near Ramadi in Iraq's western province of Anbar, a provincial security source said. Iraqi security forces and allied Sunni paramilitary tribal fighters stormed al-Ta'mim district in the western part of Anbar's provincial capital city of Ramadi, some 110 km west of Baghdad, after heavy house-to-house clashes, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The fierce battle resulted in the killing of at least 12 IS militants and the destroying

of two of booby-trapped vehicles, while five security members were killed and three others wounded, the source said. The latest advance inside the city of Ramadi came and allied paramilitary units, known as HashdShaabi, have recently recaptured several areas on the edges of Ramadi as part of their operations to flush out IS militants from the city. Meanwhile, a suicide bomber detonated his explosive-laden car near HashdShaabi fighters in Albu-Farraj area in the northern edge of Ramadi, leaving seven paramilitary fighters killed and 12 others wounded, the source said, adding that the huge blast was immediately followed by mortar barrage by IS militants. Separately, 15 ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Singapore, U.S. Step up Defense Cooperation

SINGAPORE - Singapore and the United States have signed an enhanced Defense Cooperation Agreement (DCA), the Singapore Ministry of Defense said in a statement on Tuesday. The two countries agreed to enhance cooperation in the military, policy, strategic and technology spheres, as well as in non-conventional security areas such as piracy and transnational terrorism. The enhanced DCA also lays out new areas of cooperation, in humanitarian assistance and disaster relief (HADR), cyber defense, biosecurity and public communications, the ministry said. A joint statement released after the signing ceremony noted the inaugural deployment of the U.S. P-8 Poseidon aircraft to Singapore from Monday to Dec. 14 this year and that of the second Littoral Combat Ship, the USS Fort Worth, to Singapore in 2014. The Singapore defense ministry said that these deployments promote greater interoperability with regional militaries and provide timely support for regional HADR and maritime security efforts. The enhanced DCA was signed on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the 1990 Memorandum of Understanding and the 10th anniversary of the 2005 Strategic Framework Agreement between the U.S. and Singapore. The first document allows the U.S. access to Singapore facilities at the PayaLebar Airbase and the Sembawang wharves, while the second is aimed at strengthening defense and security cooperation between the two countries. *(Xinhua)*

Stance on Migration Crisis won't Damage Slovakia's EU Presidency: Official

BRATISLAVA - Slovakia won't be put at a disadvantage during its EU presidency due to its stances on the migration issue, announced Ivan Korcok, an official for the Slovak Presidency of the Council of the EU on Tuesday. "When some sensitive decisions are in question, it usually happens that one or another state will oppose them," noted Korcok, adding that a successful presidency is important for all EU-member states when it comes to dealing with common issues. One of the topics that will be discussed during Slovakia's presidency will be the financial framework of the EU, and specifically the drawing of EU funds. In view of the stances of the Visegrad Four countries (Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Hungary and Poland) on the redistribution of refugees, ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Next Syria Meeting Depends on 'Flow of Events': Kerry

LE BOURGET - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry says the next high-level diplomatic meeting on Syria, which is planned for New York later this month, depends on the "flow of events" over the coming week. Speaking after meeting with U.N. chief Ban Ki-moon on the sidelines of a global climate conference, Kerry said Tuesday he hoped to have the meeting as scheduled on Dec. 18. But he said it would depend on the results of a Saudi-led gathering of Syrian opposition figures who are trying to work out a unified position and delegation for U.N.-sponsored peace talks. Those talks are to be accompanied by a ceasefire between the government and moderates. Both Kerry and Ban said it was important for the truce to take effect as soon as possible. *(Agencies)*

Nieghbor News

China, Russia to Expand Energy Cooperation

BEIJING - Chinese Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli met with Russian natural gas company Gazprom CEO Alexei Miller here on Tuesday, calling for closer strategic energy cooperation between the two neighbors. Hailing the progress of bilateral energy cooperation under the guidance of Chinese President Xi Jinping and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin, Zhang called on both sides to implement consensus reached by the leaders of the two countries. Zhang urged the two countries to facilitate the construction of the China-Russia east-route

natural gas pipeline and speed up negotiations on the western route. China and Russia must cooperate on oil and gas projects and manufacture of advanced equipment, as well as on integrated downstream and upstream projects based on the principles of sharing gains and risks and win-win cooperation, Zhang said. The two countries should explore new cooperation fields and projects to consolidate China-Russia all-round partnership of strategic coordination, he said. Miller, in his turn, said Russia regards China as a ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Earthquake in Tajikistan's Pamir Destroys 500 Houses

DUSHANBE - Some 500 houses have been destroyed and dozens of people have been affected as a powerful 6.7 magnitude earthquake struck Tajikistan's Pamir on Monday, the press service of the country's president said.

Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon has

sent a government commission to the earthquake-hit area. The earthquake occurred on Monday at around 11.00 a.m. Moscow time, with the epicenter some 357 kilometers to the south-east of the capital Dushanbe. Earlier reports said one person has been killed. *(TASS)*

P5+1 Draft Resolution to close PMD Issue: Iran Envoy to IAEA

TEHRAN - The draft P5+1 resolution that the P5+1 group of countries has delivered to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)'s governing board will bring an end to past and present outstanding issues regarding Iran's nuclear program, Iran's IAEA ambassador says. Reza Najafi made the comments while speaking to reporters in Vienna on Tuesday a day after the P5+1 finalized a draft resolution on Iran's past nuclear activities with the IAEA Board of Governors prepares to vote on it in mid-December.

He said the P5+1 states presented the resolution with the purpose of closing the dossier of the so-called possible military dimensions (PMD) of Tehran's nuclear program in accordance with a nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Iran and the P5+1 in July. Iran and the P5+1 group of countries - the United States, Britain, France, Russia, China and Germany - managed to finalize the text of the JCPOA in the Austrian capital, Vienna, on July 14. *(PressTV)*

Sindh Assembly to Endorse Special Powers for Rangers: Khuhro

KARACHI - Senior Pakistan's PPP leader and Sindh Minister for Law and Parliamentary Affairs Nisar Ahmad Khuhro on Tuesday announced that the Sindh Assembly has been called upon to procure a legal endorsement to extend the period of special Rangers' powers in the province. "The matter has been passed onto the Sindh Assembly," he stated, adding that the approval should take a maxi-

mum of two days. The term of the paramilitary force's operation expired on Sunday. Talking to media on Tuesday during a seminar organized by Jinnah Post Graduate Medical Centre, Khuhro said that because the assembly has not been in session for some time, the decision of extending the Rangers' special powers could not be signed by the Chief Minister. Khuhro added ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

Heads of Central Bank, Commodity Exchange Reprimanded in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has reprimanded the head of the Board of the Central Bank Merdan Annadurdyev for unsatisfactory performance of his duties and shortcomings in his work, said the message from Turkmen government. During the government meeting, the president drew the attention of the Central Bank head on a number of priority tasks and ordered to ensure proper control over the activities of banks in the country, broad use

of innovative technologies and best practices in their work. Berdimuhamedov stated that together with relevant ministries, it is necessary to work out and take measures to improve the currency regulation mechanisms, increase the volume of currency funds from the export of goods. Moreover, Turkmen president reprimanded the head of the State Commodity and Raw Materials Exchange Amandurdi Ishanov for unsatisfactory performance of his duties ...*(More on P4)...(31)*