

# UN Officials Call for Implementation UN Road Safety Legal Instruments

GENEVA - The UN called on governments and the automotive industry on Wednesday here to implement UN road safety legal instruments to save lives.

The UN Secretary General's special envoy for road safety, Jean Todt, and UNECE executive secretary Christian Friis Bach made the demand.

Every year, 1.25 million people die around the world as a result of road crashes and 20 to 50 million more are injured. It is the number one cause of death among young people aged 15 to 29 and claims the lives of 500 innocent children daily. Today, 90 percent of these deaths occur in low and middle-income countries, even though they account for only 54 percent of the world's vehicles. With the UN sustainable development goals recent-



ly adopted, the international community has committed to halving road traffic fatalities by 2020. This will require accrued efforts from all stakeholders and countries. Over the past decades, the UN has developed many conventions governing most aspects of road safety. These legal instruments are in place and at the disposal of countries to help them build safer vehicles and safer roads, with consistent traffic rules and road signs. The two officials urged all UN member states to take their responsibilities and to ratify and fully apply the UN road safety legal instruments and called on the motor industry as a whole to ensure that well-established safety standards are applied to all vehicles sold in developing countries. (Xinhua)

## S.Korea to Stop Operations at Joint Factory Park with DPRK over Rocket, Nuke Test

SEOUL - South Korea on Wednesday announced a plan to completely stop operations at a jointly run factory park with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) over Pyongyang's recent nuclear test and long-range rocket launch.

The decision ended the last remaining symbol of inter-Korean economic cooperation, which Seoul saw as a key source of cash to ad-

vance Pyongyang's nuclear and missile technology. Unification Minister Hong Yong-Pyo told a televised press briefing that the DPRK conducted extremist provocations, including the fourth nuclear test and long-range missile launch, in defiance of repeated warnings from the international community.

The DPRK launched a rocket on Sunday to deliver an observation satel-



lite into orbit after testing what it claimed was its first H-bomb on Jan. 6. Pyongyang is banned under UN Security Council resolution ... (More on P4)... (19)

## Turkish Military Detains 34 IS Members with Bomb Vests

ANKARA - Turkish military detained suspected 34 Islamic State (IS) members that were trying to cross from Syria to Turkey with explosives including four bomb vests, said a military statement on Wednesday. The Turkish military launched operation over an information that IS militants would cross explosives through the border town of Suruc in southeastern Turkey in July 2015 left 34 pro-Kurdish and left-wing activists killed. In October ... (More on P4)... (20)

and 20 children, detained with two bags carrying 15-20 kg explosives along with four bomb vests, added the statement. Turkey has suffered from a series of deadly attacks recently. A deadly suicide attack in the heart of Istanbul in January killed 11 foreign tourists. A bombing attack in the border town of Suruc in southeastern Turkey in July 2015 left 34 pro-Kurdish and left-wing activists killed. In October ... (More on P4)... (20)

## IMF Chief Warns Ukraine of Risk Losing Aid Program

KIEV - International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Christine Lagarde on Wednesday said Ukraine risks losing the fund's aid program over slow progress in implementing reforms and combating corruption.

"Without a substantial new effort to invigorate governance reforms and fight corruption, it is hard to see how the IMF-supported program can continue," Lagarde said in a statement.

She said that it was essential for the Ukrainian authorities to take urgent steps towards speeding up the reform process to con-

tinue cooperation with the IMF.

"It is vital that Ukraine's leadership acts now to put the country back on a promising path of reform," Lagarde said.

Ukraine is experiencing its worst economic crisis in the past decade and it is heavily dependent on the IMF aid to fill the state budget and foreign exchange reserves.

In March 2015, the IMF approved a four-year loan package of 17.5 billion U.S. dollars for Ukraine to keep the country's ailing economy afloat amid economic and political turbulence, ... (More on P4)... (21)

## 3,000 Operations Cancelled as British Junior Doctors Strike Again

LONDON - A second wave of industrial action by thousands of junior doctors started Wednesday morning after negotiations over pay and new contracts failed. The second 24-hour strike by doctors started at 8:00 a.m. local time (0800 GMT). It has led to the cancellation of almost 3,000 operations on Wednesday, though emergency care is still being provided. About 38,000 junior doctors in England went on strike last month over the same issues. It was the first industrial action by British junior doc-

tors in nearly 40 years.

The British government wanted to put the National Health Service (NHS) on a seven-day working basis and tried to introduce a new contract for junior doctors, who were concerned about whether they could premium payments for work on Saturdays.

The British Medical Association (BMA), the trade union for 170,000 doctors in Britain, proposed accepting half of the 11 percent basic pay raise offered by the government in return for retaining extra payments for working Sat-



urdays. However, Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt reportedly rejected the proposed deal. Junior doctors joined the

walkouts on Wednesday in many cities around the country, including London, Sheffield, Manchester. (Xinhua)

## French Foreign Minister to Leave Office



PARIS - French Foreign Minister Laurent Fabius said Wednesday that he was going to leave office after serving four years in the position, a local daily reported.

The top French diplomat told reporters he was attending his last cabinet meeting earlier in the day,

Le Figaro said. Fabius is expected to be nominated by President Francois Hollande as the president of the Constitutional Council -- the country's top constitutional authority, according to the newspaper.

Fabius' leave is expected to prompt a government

reshuffle, which is likely to be announced by the end of this week. Fabius, 69, is a veteran political figure of the French Socialist Party. He became France's youngest ever prime minister at the age of 37 in 1984 under President Francois Mitterrand. (Xinhua)

## NATO, EU Enhance Cyber Defense Cooperation

BRUSSELS - NATO and the European Union (EU) on Wednesday concluded a technical arrangement to enhance cyber defense cooperation. NATO said in a press release that the cooperation will help both organizations better address the challenges of cyber attacks as they face similar challenges in protecting their networks against the growing threat of cyber attacks. The arrangement was signed between the NATO Computer Incident Response Capability and the Computer Emergency Response Team of the EU, which provides a framework for exchanging information and sharing best practices between emergency response teams. The aim of the arrangement is to enhance the cyber defenses of both organizations by exchanging cyber defense-related data. NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg stated, "Our emergency response teams will have a ... (More on P4)... (22)

## Syrian Rebels Demand U.S. Action Ahead of Peace Talks

PARIS/UNITED NATIONS - Rebel groups urged U.S. President Barack Obama to do more to stop Russian bombing raids in Syria as pressure mounted on Washington for greater commitment towards resolving the five-year-old war ahead of a new round of peace talks this week. World powers are meeting in Germany on Thursday in a bid to revive peace efforts, but with Moscow backing a Syrian government push for all-out military victory, Western officials and opposition delegates see little hope of a breakthrough. U.N. Special Envoy Staffan de Mistura halted the first attempt to negotiate an end to Syria's war in two years after an offensive by forces loyal to Syrian President Bashar al-Assad ... (More on P4)... (23)

## Erdogan Chastises U.S. over Support for Syrian Kurds

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan upbraided the United States for its support of Syrian Kurdish rebels on Wednesday, saying Washington's inability to understand the group's true nature had turned the region into a "sea of blood". Erdogan's comments, a day after Turkey summoned the U.S. ambassador over its support for the Syrian Kurds, illustrate Ankara's growing frustration with its NATO ally, which backs Syrian Kurdish rebels in the battle against Islamic State. Adding to the tension, the army said one Turkish soldier was killed and another wounded when security forces clashed with Kurdish militants crossing over from Syria. ... (More on P4)... (26)

## Indian Energy Giant Seeks Solar Project in Australia

SYDNEY - Indian coal giant Adani Enterprises Ltd. is pursuing a solar project in Australia while its Queensland state coal project suffers continuous delays. Adani's 16.5 billion U.S. dollar Carmichael coal project in Queensland state's Galilee basin has suffered multiple setbacks from green groups launching court action while the

company is yet to finalize compensation to landholders and delays continue in the issuing of mining leases. The Indian giant confirmed to local media on Wednesday it is chasing renewable energy options in Australia, focusing on potential opportunities in Queensland state and South Australia state, ... (More on P4)... (24)

## Financial Turmoil Highlights Need for Global Economic Governance Reforms

BEIJING - The recent market rout highlights the fragile nature of the ongoing global economic recovery and shows a need for boosting policy coordination and carrying on with global economic governance reforms. In particular, there is a need for strengthened policy coordination when countries are tempted at a time of economic challenges

to adopt policies that may potentially have a spillover effect. The recent market crash is no coincidence. Japan recently adopted the unusual move of negative interest rates, which however only pushed down the exchange rate of the yen temporarily. The markets are speculating over possible similar ... (More on P4)... (25)

## Neighbor News

### China Natural Gas Consumption Growth Slows

BEIJING - China is pinched by natural gas oversupply due to slowed consumption growth and increased imports, a latest report showed. China's apparent consumption of natural gas amounted to 191 billion cubic meters in 2015, up 3.7 percent year on year, the report by China National Petroleum Corporation said. The 10-year low growth was attributed to economic slowdown and high gas prices, according to the report. Meanwhile, China's natural gas imports rose 4.7 percent year on year to 62.4 billion cubic meters, while

domestic production expanded 3.5 percent year on year to 131.8 billion cubic meters. As a result of optimistic judgement of increasing demand for natural gas and the need to ensure energy supply security, China signed a raft of long-term contracts to import natural gas around 2010. The contracts are taking effect. Weak demand has led to excessive supply of natural gas in China. However, natural gas consumption is expected to rally in 2016, thanks to price cut and environmental protection pressure, according to the report. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan, Qatar Sign \$1 Billion Annual LNG Supply Deal

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and Qatar on Tuesday signed a long term liquefied natural gas (LNG) supply agreement on Wednesday in Doha as a part of Prime Minister's two day visit to the Middle Eastern country.

The agreement was jointly signed by Federal Minister for Petroleum and Natural Resources Shahid Khaqan Abbasi and Chairman of Qatar Gas Board of Directors Saad Sherida Al-Kaabi at a ceremony in Diwan-e-Emiri in Doha, according to which the kingdom will provide a billion dollars' worth of LNG to Pakistan an-

nually. Related: PSO allowed to sign \$16bn LNG deal with Qatar. Qatar Liquefied Gas Company Limited will sell LNG from 2016 to year 2031 to Pakistan State Oil (PSO). The annual contract quantity for 2016 has been agreed at a pro-rata of 2.25 metric tonne while the price for each cargo has been agreed at 13.37 percent of Brent. Abbasi later told media that the import price of LNG from Qatar was the best available rate, adding that Pakistan will get at least thirty-five million tonnes of LNG to help rid the energy crisis. (Agencies)

### Iran to Build New Generation of Emad Long-Range Missile: Minister

TEHRAN - Iran's Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan said that his country plans to build an upgraded version of the Emad long-range missiles, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday. "A new model of the (Emad) ballistic missile will be designed and produced in the future with higher precision in hitting targets," he said, adding that Iran also intends to mass produce first generation of Emad missile. The minister said the country has also built an advanced tank, "which is as good as, if not better than, Russian-made T90 tanks."

He said the tank's name is "Karrar" and it will be unveiled in the near future. In October, Iran announced it "successfully" test-fired the country's first long-range missile of Emad which could be guided and controlled until hitting the target with high precision.

### Tajikistan Sets Referendum Date on Extending President's Term Indefinitely

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan will hold a referendum in May on amending the Soviet republic's constitution to allow President Emomali Rahmon to extend his term indefinitely, the state-run RIA Novosti news agency reported Wednesday. The referendum on May 22 will not list the 41 amendments to the country's constitution, but will simply ask voters to answer a Yes/No question on whether they accept the full package of reforms, the report said, citing parliament speaker Shukurdzhon Zakhurov. Amending the constitu-

tion would allow Rahmon to run for reelection in 2020, after already having competed in elections four times since 1994. It also lowers the minimum age for presidential candidates to 30 instead of 35, allowing Rahmon's son, Rustami Emomali, to run for his father's position. The country's Constitutional Court earlier this month ruled that the law limiting presidential rule to two terms should "not apply to the founder of peace and national unity, the leader of the nation," the TASS news agency reported earlier. (Agencies)