

Putin, Trump to Soon Talk by Phone: Russia

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin is expected to speak to U.S. President Donald Trump by phone in the coming days, the Kremlin said Saturday. Putin will congratulate Trump on his inauguration during the conversation as a "protocol necessity," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by RIA Novosti news agency as saying. A meeting between the two leaders will possibly be held in the coming months, rather



than coming weeks, said the spokesman, adding that the specific date is expected to be discussed during the phone conversation. As for violent anti-Trump protests, Peskov said Russia opposes meddling in other countries' internal affairs and thus the United States should handle the issue by itself. Trump was sworn in as the 45th U.S. president at an inauguration ceremony held Friday morning at Capitol Hill, overshadowed by occasional rain and violent protests. (Xinhua)

Anti-Trump Protests Rip Through U.S. City of Denver

DENVER, the United States - Thousands of angry protesters marched defiantly through Colorado's capital Friday chanting "Not My President," as 2,900 kilometers away, Donald Trump was being sworn into the Oval Office. Trump's brief, 16-minute inauguration speech in Washington, D.C. triggered protests across the country, as the billionaire continued his angry rant against liberals, and especially outgoing President Barack Obama. "Trump stole the election," said marcher James

Dunmore, 68, a retired insurance salesman from Boston who relocated to Denver in 1988. "Trump is a disgrace to America." Dunmore led a large group of Denver citizens chanting, "Refugees are welcome here." At the same time in the U.S. Capitol, the new president was putting his left hand on a Bible used by Abraham Lincoln over 150 years ago, swearing to uphold American values. "Trump didn't win the popular vote," Dunmore said. Colorado was ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Iraq Recovers 89 Bodies of IS-Executed Soldiers at Mass Grave

TIKRIT, Iraq - Iraqi authorities found Saturday the remains of some 89 bodies believed to be for soldiers of Speicher Camp who were executed by the Islamic State (IS) militants when the group seized Tikrit in June 2014, a provincial security source said. A joint committee from the security authority, forensic team and the Iraqi High Commission of Human Rights (IHCHR) arrived to the site of the mass grave at one of the former presidential palaces in central Tikrit, and began to exhume the

decomposed bodies, the source told Xinhua on condition of anonymity. The latest discovery of the bodies was based on information extracted during interrogation of IS detainees who were captured earlier by the security forces, the source said. The victims were believed to be among 1,700 soldiers who walked out of an airbase, known as Camp Speicher, north of Tikrit, some 170 km north of Baghdad, but were abducted and then killed by ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Turkish Parliament Approves Constitutional Changes

ANKARA - Turkish lawmakers approved the bill on 18-article constitutional changes in a final vote early Saturday, Anadolu Agency reported. A total of 339 legislators voted for and 142 against the changes that will now head to a referendum likely to be held in early April. The constitutional changes are expected to lead to dramatically expanded powers of President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. They include Turkey's shifting to a presidential system that requires a simple majority, or 51 percent, in a referen-

dum. The parliament vote came after almost three weeks of debates, which even caused lawmakers to fight each other. Each article was put to a vote in the 550-seat Turkish parliament. At least 330 votes, or a three-fifths majority, are needed to adopt the constitutional change. Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim, leader of the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), congratulated lawmakers for passing the constitutional changes. "People



will have the final say," he told them. "We have done our job. Now we convey the issue to its real owner, our people." "People's vote will be the most accurate one," said Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) leader Devlet Bahçeli. "The Turkish nation will do its own evaluation and hopefully it will add to what has been achieved so far." (Xinhua)

Trump to Eliminate Obama's Climate Action Plan: White House Website

WASHINGTON - Shortly after U.S. President Donald Trump was sworn into office Friday, the newly updated White House website said the new administration will eliminate the Climate Action Plan, the centerpiece of former President Barack Obama's climate legacy. "For too long, we've been held back by burdensome regulations on our energy industry," the website said in a page titled "An America First Energy Plan." "President Trump is committed to eliminat-

ing harmful and unnecessary policies such as the Climate Action Plan and the Waters of the U.S. rule." It claimed that lifting these restrictions will "greatly help American workers, increasing wages by more than 30 billion U.S. dollars over the next seven years." The rest of the webpage did not mention climate change any more. Trump has called climate change a "hoax" and has threatened to pull the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement that took effect last



year. Trump's energy plan said that the U.S. has "vast untapped domestic energy reserves" valued at 50 trillion dollars in total, and that the country "must take advantage of the revenues from energy production to rebuild our roads, schools, bridges and public infrastructure." (Xinhua)

Trump Signs Waiver to Clear Way for Defense Secretary Nominee

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump signed a legislation Friday to clear a legal barrier for James Mattis, his nominee for defense secretary, to take office. Trump signed the waiver to grant Mattis a one-time exception, in one of the first actions after he was sworn in as the 45th U.S. President at a ceremony held earlier at the Capitol Hill. Under the U.S. law, a former service member is barred from running the



Pentagon less than seven years after retirement from military. Mattis only retired in 2013 as the Commander of the U.S. Central Command. The Senate Armed Services Committee voted 24-3 on Jan. 12 to approve Mattis' nomination, ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Turkish Army Says 46 IS Militants Killed in Northern Syria

ANKARA - A total of 46 Islamic State (IS) terrorists were killed and 16 others injured in attacks launched by Turkish army in Al-Bab of northern Syria in last 24 hours, Turkish General Staff stated on Saturday. During the attacks, the army has shelled many targets belonging to the terrorists, destroying defense positions, shelters and command facilities, as well as weapons and vehicles, the military source said. A total of 3,044 improvised explosive devices and 43 mines have been destroyed since the beginning of the operation, the military added. The Turkish Armed Forces launched the Euphrates Shield Operation last August against both the IS and the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), the military wing of the ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Women Protest Against Trump on Streets of Europe's Capitals



LONDON/VIENNA - Thousands of women took to the streets of European capitals to join "sister marches" in Asia against newly installed U.S. President Trump ahead of a major rally in Washington expected to draw nearly a quarter of a million people. Waving banners with slogans like "Special relationship, just say no" and "Nasty women unite," the demonstrators gathered outside the American embassy in Grosvenor Square before heading to a rally in central Trafalgar Square. Worldwide some 670 marches were planned, according to the organizers' website which says more than two million marchers are expected to protest against Trump, who was sworn in as the 45th U.S. president on Friday. Celebrities including rights activist Bianca Jagger, singer Charlotte Church and actor Ian McKellen expressed their support for the protest on social media. Several marchers wore pink "pussy" hats, and carried banners with slogans like: "this pussy bites back" after the emergence of a 2005 tape in which Trump spoke of women in a demeaning way sparked widespread outrage. In Europe, marches also took place in Berlin, Paris, Rome, Vienna, Geneva and Amsterdam. (Reuters)

Courts in BiH Solve about 170,000 Cold Cases in 2016

SARAJEVO - Courts in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) have solved nearly 170,000 cold cases in 2016, the BiH High Judicial and Prosecutorial Council (BiH HJPC) has announced. These were the latest results of the monitoring process of solving cold cases, which is one of the main activities of the HJPC, to ensure that the courts fully respect the fulfillment of plans to solve these cases. "Specifically, the courts in BiH have solved a total of 168,369 cold cases in 2016, which further contributed to the continuous reduction of the backlog of cold cases, and increasing the ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

French President Slams Economic Protectionism of U.S. Counterpart: Report

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande on Friday denounced the economic protectionism repeated several times by his new American counterpart Donald Trump, local media reported. Hollande made the remarks during a visit to a company located in the French department of Vosges (east), French television channel BFMTV reported. "It is not possible or desirable to want to isolate oneself from the world economy," Hollande said, a few hours before Trump's inauguration. Donald Trump was sworn in on Fri-

day as the 45th president of the United States. Hollande recalled that negotiations on a free trade agreement between the U.S. and the European Union were "for the moment suspended, finally, in any case, postponed", according to the report. "For France, it was not possible to have commercial exchanges if there was not a recognition of the origin of products, whether agricultural, industrial or cultural," Hollande stressed. "We must not imagine France close to the rest of the world," the French president was quoted as saying. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China's Supply-Side Reform Supports Global Commodity Prices: Russian Industrialist

DAVOS, Switzerland - China's current supply-side reform supports global commodity prices, said Vladislav Soloviev, chief executive officer of Russian aluminum producer RUSAL. "A number of factors bring us to this positive situation," Soloviev said in a recent interview with Xinhua, referring to a significant uplift of aluminum price in 2016. "First of all, there is a quite strong demand in all markets - aerospace, automotive - and we see some recovery of the construction market as well," he said, adding that the expanding demand in the Chinese market was the first factor influencing the price. The CEO predicted

that after years of turmoil, the sluggish commodity prices would be improved thanks to China's supply-side reform. "China started to implement real supply reforms in 2016 and throughout the year," Soloviev said. "Those bring all of us in the industry to a healthier situation, when we see the new levels of the prices." RUSAL is a leading global aluminum producer, which operates in 19 countries on five continents. Among the reform measures that Soloviev praised were capacity reductions in the steel, cement, and aluminum industries. In his view, the reductions led ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Fight Against Terrorism Needs all-Out Global Efforts: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran has denounced a terrorist attack on a Shia-dominated area in Pakistan that killed at least 21 people, urging an all-out international campaign against terrorism. "Terrorism is the most important security challenge in the region and the world, which has targeted peace and security of countries and nations without any exceptions," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi said on Saturday.

He added that the campaign against the vicious phenomenon of terrorism requires enhanced comprehensive efforts by all regional countries and the international community. The Iranian spokesperson expressed his sympathy with the Pakistani government and the bereaved families of the terrorist attack. At least 21 people were killed and about 40 others ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Bajwa, Saudi Envoy Discuss Defence Cooperation

RAWALPINDI - Pakistan's Chief of the Army Staff Gen Qamar Javed Bajwa said the Pakistan Army held the defence of Saudi Arabia "at par with its own". According to an Inter-Services Public Relations (ISPR) statement issued on Friday, Gen Bajwa said this while talking to the Ambassador of Saudi Arabia to Pakistan, Abdullah Marzouk Al-Zahrani, who called on him at the General Headquarters. According to the statement, "issues of bilateral relations including defence and training cooperation" were the focus of discussion between

the two sides. The army chief reassured the ambassador that the Pakistan Army regarded the defence of Saudi Arabia in the same way as Pakistan's. Gen Bajwa, who became the army chief in November last year, had gone on a three-day official visit to Saudi Arabia in December. In his meeting with Saudi deputy crown prince and defence minister Muhammad bin Salman, the army chief had "reiterated Pakistan's commitment to the security and protection of the holy mosques and also the territorial integrity of the kingdom". (Monitoring Desk)

Uzbekistan, Russia Exchange Views on Co-Op Issues

TASHKENT - Delegations of foreign ministries of Uzbekistan and Russia exchanged views on topical issues of bilateral cooperation within the CIS (Commonwealth of Independent States) during political consultations held in Tashkent, the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's press service said. Delegations of the two

countries also considered the preparation for the upcoming meeting of the CIS Council of Foreign Ministers in Tashkent and activities within the bilateral cooperation. The Russian delegation was headed by the country's Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Nebenzya. Relations between ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Turkmenistan Should be Among Industrialized Countries

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan should be among the world's leading industrialized countries in order to achieve the highest goals, said President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov during his working visit to the country's Mary Province, the Turkmen media reported. It is necessary to expand the promotion of domestic competitive, high quality products on the international market, as well as to conduct wide production of import-substi-

tuting products, noted Berdimuhamedov, the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper reported. It was previously reported that Turkmenistan adopted a state program on increasing the export volume of goods produced in the country and a state program on production of import-substituting products. Under these programs, it is planned to implement more than 110 projects aimed at the development of ...*(More on P4)...(28)*