

# Over one Million People Stage Massive Anti-Trump Protests Across U.S.

NEW YORK - Over one million people Saturday took to the streets and staged rallies across the United States to protest against President Donald Trump's first full day as the 45th U.S. President. In New York City, at least 200,000 crowd gathered near Trump Tower in Manhattan for the Women's March on New York City. Carrying signs that said "Dear Trump Don't be the person we think" and "I wish your inauguration was fake news!" More and more people lined the streets on the 42nd Street and 58 Street, waiting for



taking part in the Women's March on NYC. Police have already blocked the roads.

At the New York march, Bridget Mills, 41, told Xinhua "I hope it sends a message (to Trump) that we're listening, we are paying attention to if he cares morally about people's civil rights and America's standing in the world." Gengil, in her 20s, lives in Harlem, black, marching with five of her sisters, said "our diverse America is inclusive, resilient, brave, and it is for white, black, latino, Asian etc., this is the message we want to send to... (More on P4)...(18)

## British PM Calls for Early Brexit Talks with New European Parliament President

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May called Saturday for an early meeting with the new president of the European Parliament Antonio Tajani to discuss Britain's exit from the European Union. An official Downing Street spokesperson for May said the prime minister spoke by telephone to Tajani to congratulate him on his election to the presidency of the European Parliament. During the conversation May said she was keen to arrange a meeting in London as soon as practicable

to discuss various issues, including Britain's exit from the European Union. "She referenced her speech this week in which she set out the UK's priorities in the forthcoming Brexit negotiations, and reiterated that we would continue to play a full part in and meet our obligations to the EU while we remain a member," May's spokeswoman said. "They agreed to work together to ensure continued good relations between the UK and EU, while the Brexit process is ongoing and thereafter." (Xinhua)

## Syria Serious about Imminent Syrian Talks in Astana: PM

DAMASCUS - Syria's Prime Minister Imad Khamis said Sunday that his government is serious about the imminent Syrian talks in Astana, noting that Damascus welcomes any initiative to restore peace, according to pan-Arab al-Mayadeen TV. Khamis's remarks came as the Syrian delegation to the inter-Syrian Astana meeting flew on Sunday to the Kazakh capital to take part in the Monday meeting, which will put the government delegation with the rebels face to face for the first time in the country's

nearly six-year-old conflict. The prime minister said the priority of the meeting is to kick the foreign terrorists out of Syria. He noted that the talks will be completely Syrian-Syrian without mediators. Khamis said his government welcomes any initiative that could be conducive in restoring peace and security to Syria. The talks in Astana are the result of a Russian-Turkish understanding, which started with a ceasefire in the country, which excluded terror-designated groups such as the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front and the Islamic State (IS) group. A day earlier, Syrian President Bashar al-Assad said that establishing a ceasefire in Syria is the priority of the imminent Syrian nego-



tations in Astana. Assad said everything will be discussed in the talks slated for Jan. 23 in the Kazakh capital, and it must rely on the Syrian constitution. (Xinhua)

## Erdogan Says Eager to Hear Trump's Mideast Policies

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said Sunday he is eager to hear U.S. President Donald Trump's Middle East policies. "Turkey wants to see a Middle East that is respected for its territorial integrity," Turkish president was quoted by Turkish press as saying to reporters in Istanbul Ataturk Airport before departing for Tanzania. "We never consider a shattered Middle East and it won't be right." Erdogan said he is going to discuss the issues on Mid-

dle East with Trump during his first meeting, as the efforts are underway to set an appointment for a possible meeting, he noted. "The most powerful country in the Middle East is Turkey," he added. The Turkish Armed Forces launched the Euphrates Shield Operation last August against both the Islamic States (IS) and the Syrian Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), the military wing of the Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD). ... (More on P4)...(19)

## Trump to Meet with British PM on Friday

WASHINGTON - Newly-inaugurated U.S. President Donald Trump will meet with visiting British Prime Minister Theresa May next week, White House Press Secretary Sean Spicer said Saturday. May will be the first foreign leader to meet with Trump after he was sworn in as the new U.S. President on Friday. It is expected that the two leaders will discuss plans for a trade deal between the allies after Britain's planned withdrawal

from the European Union. In a recent interview, Trump said Britain's exit from the European Union will turn out to be "a great thing." Trump pledged to offer Britain a quick and fair trade deal with the U.S. within weeks of taking office, saying that "we're gonna work very hard to get it done quickly and done properly. Good for both sides." On Saturday, Spicer said Trump has also scheduled a meeting with Mexican President Enrique



Pena Nieto on Jan. 31. Trump has said he wanted to build a wall along the border between the U.S. and Mexico, to keep out illegal migrants. He also threatened to levy heavy taxes on companies that operate plants in Mexico but export to north of the border. (Xinhua)

## Libya's Neighbors Urge Dialogue to End Crisis, Reject Foreign Interference

CAIRO - The foreign ministers of Libya's neighboring countries met in Cairo on Saturday and urged dialogue as the only solution to put an end to the North African country's crisis. The meeting was led by Egyptian Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry and attended by Arab League (AL) Secretary-General Ahmed Aboul-Gheit, UN Envoy to Libya Martin Kobler, as well as representatives from Libya, Sudan, Algeria, Chad, Niger



and Tunisia. The final communique of the meeting reiterated rejection of any military action or foreign military

interference in the war-torn state, underlined the importance of cooperation among Libya's neighbors in... (More on P4)...(20)

## Russia PM Calls Idea US will Lift Sanctions Soon 'Illusion'

MOSCOW - Russian Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev says the west's sanctions on Russia are likely to remain in place "for a long time" despite expectations Donald Trump's inauguration as U.S. president will lead to warmer relations between Washington and Moscow. Medvedev told members of the ruling United Russia party on Sunday that Russian leaders "can't place our hope on foreign elections" and "It's time to dispense with the illusion that sanctions against our country will be lifted." Trump's pledge to bring a fresh eye to Russia has produced some excitement in Russia. But senior Russian officials are warning that differences between Moscow and Washington will not disappear overnight. The U.S. and... (More on P4)...(21)

## Syrian Rebels Call on Russia to Help Defend Ceasefire

ASTANA - A Syrian rebel group called on Russia to withstand pressure from Iran and the Syrian government to help ensure that a ceasefire agreed last month holds, the head of a delegation at peace talks told Reuters on Sunday. Mohammad Alloush said a failure by Moscow to end what the opposition says are widespread violations of a Turkish-Russian brokered ceasefire would be a blow to its influence in Syria. "It's a real test of the power of Russia and its influence over the regime and Iran as a guarantor of the deal, so if it fails in this role there will follow bigger failures," Alloush said in the Kazakh capital, where talks are due to begin on Monday. The Syrian opposition says the government and Iranian-backed militias are continuing military offensives in several areas in Syria, including in Wadi Barada near the capital, regardless of the ceasefire. The opposition has been disappointed so far by what it says is Moscow's inability to fulfill its role as guarantor of the deal and put pressure on the Iranian-backed militias led by Lebanon's Hezbollah group saying this threatened to wreck the ceasefire deal brokered in December. "Russia wants to move from a direct party in the fighting to a guarantor and neutral one and this point is being obstructed by the Syrian regime that wants it to fail and Iran that is fighting this with its sectarian militias in Syria," Alloush said. Russia and Turkey are the main organizers of a new round of Syrian peace talks due to take place in Kazakhstan on Jan. 23 and have set aside their differences over the political fate of President Bashar al-Assad to try to forge a wider Syria deal. (Reuters)

## Kenya to Spend \$10 Mln to Deworm 6 Mln Children

NAIROBI - The Kenyan government said it will spend 10 million U.S. dollars on drugs to deworm over 6 million school-age children between six and 14 years old. The ministries of health and education will carry out the exercise to distribute drugs to treat children whether in school or out against intestinal worms and bilharzias, said a statement from the health ministry received on Sunday. Head of the Neglected Tropical Diseases Unit Dr. Sultani Matendechero said the team is already on the ground conducting advocacy and sensitization campaigns. Matendechero noted... (More on P4)...(22)

## Iran Consults Russia, Turkey before Syria Talks

TEHRAN - The Iranian delegation, which is in Astana to mediate talks aimed at resolving Syria's six-year conflict, has held separate consultations with the two other mediating delegations, namely those of Russia and Turkey. Headed by Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari, the Iranian team arrived in the Kazakh capital on Saturday. Soon afterwards, it met with its Russian and Turkish counterparts to discuss the latest schedule revisions and developments concerning the upcoming meeting. The two-day talks, organized by Iran, Russia and Turkey, will involve the representatives of the Syrian government and

opposition groups discussing a solution to the conflict. The negotiations will start on Monday. The Russian delegation is headed by President Vladimir Putin's pointman on Syria, Alexander Lavrentiev, while Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Sedat Onal is leading the Turkish representatives. At the talks, Iran and Russia will be mediating on behalf of the Syrian government, while Turkey will be siding with the militants. Coordination between Iran, Russia and Turkey helped bring about an agreement on the evacuation of militants in the northwestern Syrian city of Aleppo late last year. A... (More on P4)...(23)

## Neighbor News

### China to Host Key UN Meeting on Fighting Desertification

BEIJING - China is to host a United Nations meeting on fighting desertification in September, an official said Sunday. About 1,400 delegates from 195 parties to a UN special convention on desertification will gather in Ordos, north China's Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region, from early to mid-September, said Zhang Yongli, deputy head of the State Forestry Administration, at a press conference. They will discuss national goals and action plans to realize zero net land degradation, whereby land degradation is either avoided or offset by

land restoration, by 2030, Zhang told reporters. China's desertified area was reduced by 12,120 square kilometers from 2009 to the end of 2014, while its area of sandified land dropped 9,902 square kilometers during the period, official monitoring showed. According to the UN Convention to Combat Desertification, 12 million hectares of land are lost to desertification every year across the globe and the figure could rise due to population growth, climatic pressure and unsustainable farming practices. (Xinhua)

### Fight Against Terrorism Needs all-Out Global Efforts: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran said it will "act appropriately" if the U.S. President Donald Trump chooses to "tear up" the Iranian nuclear deal signed in 2015 between Iran and six world powers, Press TV reported on Sunday. "We can very easily snap back and go back ... not only to where we were, but a much higher position, technologically speaking," head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Ali Akbar Salehi, was quoted as saying. The Iranians do not want

the day when nuclear deal is broken apart, "but we are prepared" for that day, Salehi said. Trump has repeatedly criticized the Iran nuclear deal during his campaign last year, calling it "the worst deal ever negotiated." He also suggested that he would force Iran to return to the negotiating table or risk the accord being dismantled. Iran and six world major countries, namely the United States, Britain, China, Russia, France and Germany, reached an... (More on P4)...(24)

### Notification for CPEC Security Force Issued by Interior Ministry

ISLAMABAD - The Pakistani Interior Ministry has issued a notification for the establishment of a Special Security Division set up for the protection of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, Radio Pakistan reported on Sunday. According to an official of the Planning Division, a deployment order will be issued by the ministry after requisition from the provinces. A CPEC parliamentary committee was told in August 2016 that the Special Security Division would comprise 15,000 troops, including 9,000

Pakistan Army soldiers and 6,000 para-military forces personnel. Defence ministry officials told the committee that the SSD has been assigned the responsibility of protecting Chinese workers and CPEC projects. The government had earlier allocated Rs1.3 billion for CPEC security in addition to efforts made by the provincial governments, the committee was told. The cost of raising the SSD was Rs0.5bn according to officials briefing the committee. (Monitoring Desk)

### Turkmenistan Seeking for New Oil, Gas Fields

ASHGABAT - Research work, 2D and 3D seismic surveys aimed at finding new oil and gas fields are conducted in Turkmenistan, said the article of the online newspaper of the country's Oil and Gas Complex. Progress report was made public during a meeting dedicated to the results of activities of the Oil and Gas Complex's

enterprises in 2016. The meeting was attended by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Yagshigeldy Kakaev, heads of Turkmengaz, Turkmenoil, Turkmenneftegazstroy state concerns and Turkmengeology State Corporation. Moreover, uninterrupted supply of natural gas to new settlements, its safe and... (More on P4)...(25)

### EU Interested in Developing Relations with Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - High representative of the EU for foreign affairs and security policy, vice-president of the European Commission, Federica Mogherini addressed a letter to Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to congratulate him on his victory in presidential election and expressed great interest of the EU in the further development of relations with Uzbekistan and the establishment of closer cooperation with the country's new government. The letter was handed

over to the Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov by Peter Burian, EU special representative for Central Asia, during his official visit to Uzbekistan on Jan.19-20, according to the press release of the EU delegation to Uzbekistan. The EU special representative and the Uzbek foreign minister discussed international and regional issues. Burian spoke positively about Uzbekistan's current constructive cooperation with the neighboring states as well as... (More on P4)...(26)