

# Domestic Financing Crucial to Success of SDGs: UN

LUSAKA - A senior United Nations (UN) official said on Monday that the proposed Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will only be a success if countries take ownership of them and take serious initiative to mobilize domestic finances.

The SDGs are a proposed set of targets relating to future international development and are expected to replace the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) once they expire at the end of 2015. They will be adopted in September this year by UN mem-



ber states.

Rekha Shrestha, UN Communication Specialists in Zambia told reporters that governments will need to do more to ensure that the goals become a reality and should not take them as mere UN goals.

"Governments should be the ones driving them. They need to do more; both developed and developing countries; both governments from the north and south. At the same time the new SDGs open an opportunity for private sector to come on board," she said. (Xinhua)

## WB, IMF Launch Joint Initiative to Help Developing Countries

WASHINGTON - The World Bank (WB) and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) are launching a new initiative to help developing countries strengthen their tax systems, the two international financial organizations have announced.

The announcement came ahead of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development scheduled for Monday-Thursday in Addis



Ababa of Ethiopia, at which heads of state and multilateral institutions as well as private sec-

tor representatives will discuss how to scale up finances to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Analysis suggests that many lower-income countries have the potential to increase their tax ratios by at least 2-4 percent of GDP without compromising fairness or growth. Raising additional revenues will allow developing countries to fill financing gaps and promote development.

"A strong revenue base is imperative if develop... (More on P4)... (22)

## Saudi-Led Air Strikes Kill at Least 21 Civilians in Yemen

SANAA - At least 21 civilians were killed and 45 others wounded when Saudi-led warplanes struck a residential neighborhood in Yemen's capital Sanaa early on Monday, witnesses and medics said, despite a humanitarian truce.

The warplanes destroyed nine houses in Sawan area, where most of the residents are poor, witnesses said.

Medics at the scene told Xinhua that "21 dead bod-

ies, mostly women and children, were pulled from under the rubble; while 45 others were wounded and moved to hospitals."

Rescue teams have been working for hours after the predawn raid to search for survivors.

"It should not target the innocent people," said a resident named Ibrahim. Residents in Sawan area said there was no presence of Shiite Houthi fighters or weapons stores. (Xinhua)

## "Real Progress" Made in Nuclear Talks, Problems Remain: Iran Negotiator

TEHRAN - Real progress has been made in the nuclear talks between the representatives of Iran and the world powers for a comprehensive agreement despite some lingering problems, Iran's senior negotiator Abbas Araqchi said in the Austrian capital of Vienna on Monday.

"The talks are at its tough moments, and real progress has been reached

over the past three days," Araqchi told reporters as the talks entered the final day of the latest self-imposed deadline on Monday, according to official IRNA news agency.

Sunday's "talks continued until 4 a.m. on Monday (Vienna time) and they will go on today ... but there are still problems to be solved," he was quoted as saying.

Unless these problems are solved, no agreement will be announced, "but there is a hope for that," he added.

On Sunday, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said there are still work to be done on Monday on an agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue, but there would be no extension of the talks. (Xinhua)

## Possible Nuclear Deal to Remove Sanctions against Iran: State Media

TEHRAN - A possible nuclear deal between Iran and world powers, which may be announced in the coming days, will remove economic and weapons sanctions imposed on Tehran, state media reported Monday.

If a final agreement is reached, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPA) will include the removal of

all economic, financial and banking sanctions against Iran on the day when the deal comes into effect, a source "privy to the talks" was quoted by semi-official Fars news agency as saying.

The JCPA only envisages a set of temporary economic restrictions that will be removed after a limited and logical period of time, the report said.

Iran will no more be subject to any arms embargo under a UN Security Council resolution to be announced on the day when the deal is signed, it added.

The JCPA is a collection of multiple agreements that all fall within the redlines specified by the Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, according to the report. (Xinhua)

## EU Deal over Third Greek Bailout Important, not Granted: Italy's Renzi



ROME - Italian Prime Minister Matteo Renzi on Monday said the agreement reached by euro zone leaders on a third bailout program for Greece was important and "not granted" at all, local media reported.

"There is no need of triumphalism, nor of understatement now," Renzi told a press conference in Brussels, according to Il Sole 24 Ore financial daily.

"The agreement reached tonight is important, and many times during the talks it appeared (to be) not granted at all," said Renzi. The Italian prime

minister acknowledged the 17-hour long talks in Brussels among the 19 European Union (EU) members of the euro zone were tense and difficult, and more than once seemed close to a failure. "Last night we have risked to be very near to a 'Grexit', but then we have taken a very assertive step in the opposite direction," Renzi said. "The discussion has been very heated, yet also genuine, and what happened tonight proved there is no one single country at the helm of Europe, just the contrary," said the Italian prime minister. (Xinhua)

## India, Pakistan Joining SCO Benefits Security, Economy in Asia: Indian Experts

NEW DELHI - Experts in India have spoken highly of the just-concluded Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit in Russia, saying SCO's planned expansion will enable India and Pakistan to play a bigger role in combating terrorism as well as promoting economic development in the region.

The SCO has ratified a resolution on starting its expansion procedures of granting India and Pakistan full membership of the organization, according to a declaration issued after the 15th SCO summit held in Ufa, capital of Russia's Bashkortostan Repub-

lic.

Currently, both India and Pakistan are observers of the SCO. Pakistan applied for a full membership in 2006 and India in 2014.

S.K. Gupta, a Delhi-based expert, said in an interview with Xinhua that terrorism is a rising threat to the entire region, and all the countries want to fight it. "Russia and China want India and Pakistan to join their fight against terrorism."

He said, "Both the countries (India and Pakistan) are victims of terrorism and despite bilateral differences, they will unite against terrorism." (Xinhua)

## 32 Killed in Al-Shabaab Attack in Somalia



MOGADISHU - A total of 32 people, including 25 militants were killed Monday in fighting between Africa Union (AU) forces and the Islamist group Al-Shabaab in the southern Somali district of Rage Celle, a local official said. Al-Shabaab militants launched an attack on the district but were repulsed by government troops and the AU forces in Somalia, known as AMISOM, according to Rage Celle Mayor, Yusuf

Haji Mohamad.

"Five soldiers and two civilians died in a tense fighting lasted for two hours and half," Haji Mohamad told Xinhua.

"We also managed to kill 25 militants during the attack and now the situation is under control," he added.

Local resident Jelle Warsame told Xinhua there was a heavy exchange of gunfire and were "many casualties among the residents" (Xinhua)

## UN Chief Welcomes Initialing of Political Agreement



UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Sunday said he is encouraged by the initialing of an agreement by Libyan parties, while looking forward to the speedy conclusion of the full agreement and its implementation.

Some Libyan warring factions agreed late Saturday in Skhirat, Morocco, on the UN-brokered political agreement despite the absence of the General National Congress (GNC), the Tripoli-based parliament.

"This act is a clear demonstration of political will and courage and brings

the country one step closer to resolving the current institutional and security crisis," said a statement released by Ban's spokesperson.

Ban called on all Libyans to move the political transition process forward, in a spirit of unity, through "the formation of a government of national accord," which is included in the agreement.

Libya, a major oil producer in North Africa, has been witnessing a frayed political process after former leader Muammar Gaddafi was toppled during the 2011 political turmoil. (Xinhua)

## Turkey PM Launches Coalition Talks

ANKARA - Turkish Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu began coalition talks on Monday with the second-placed CHP party after last month's election which saw his ruling party lose its overall majority.

Davutoglu's Justice and Development Party (AKP) failed to secure enough votes in the June 7 election to form a government alone, for the first time since it came to power in 2002. The AKP has 258 seats in the new parlia-

ment, the Republican People's Party (CHP) 132, and the Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and Kurdish People's Democratic Party (HDP) hold 80 apiece. Davutoglu met on Monday with CHP leader Kemal Kilicdaroglu but no agreement is expected this week during the Eid feast marking the end of holy Muslim fasting month of Ramadan. "This is not a coalition negotiation but preliminary talks for the ... (More on P4)... (23)

## Neighbour News

### Iran Nuclear Negotiations Shouldn't be Further Delayed: Chinese FM

VIENNA - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Monday called on related parties to end the marathon negotiations on an Iranian nuclear deal, saying conditions are ripe for a good deal and that an agreement could be reached anytime in Vienna.

"China believes no agreement could be perfect,.....Conditions are already in place for us to reach a good agreement," Wang told reporters. "We believe that there can not and should not be a further delay of the negotiations."

Wang was scheduled to meet on Monday his Iranian counterpart Mohammad Javad Zarif as well as foreign ministers from the other countries of the P5 plus 1 group that includes Britain, China, France, Germany, Russia and the United States. Zarif said on Sunday that there could be no further extension of the talks, but there was still a lot of work to be done. After two weeks of bargaining, Iran and the six world powers are heading toward a deal to end the decade-old standoff on Iran's nuclear program. (Xinhua)

### VP Orders Immediate Resumption of Air Service Between Ukraine and Uzbekistan

BISHKEK - Ukrainian Vice Prime Minister Valeriy Voschevsky has instructed the Ministry of Infrastructure, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the State Aviation Service to immediately take steps to resume air service between Ukraine and Uzbekistan according to the interstate obligations and notify the government of the results.

According to the press service of the vice premier, the decision was made at a government meeting on July 13.

Earlier flights were performed by Ukraine International Airlines (UIA) and Uzbekistan Airways with a frequency of one flight per week.

"However, the State Aviation Service of Ukraine canceled Uzbekistan Airways' permit to fly to Ukraine. In response, Uzbekistan canceled permits for UIA," reads a statement.

According to First Deputy Minister of Infrastructure Volodymyr Shulmeister, the problem is commercial in nature, it should be resolved by the air carriers of both countries. He said a meeting with Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Uzbekistan to Ukraine Alisher Abdualiev would be held this week to fulfill the order of Voschevsky to resume air communication between the two states. KYIV. July 13 (Interfax-Ukraine)

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### AIOU to Launch Programmes in Foreign Languages

ISLAMABAD - The Allama Iqbal Open University (AIOU) will soon launch programmes in foreign languages such as Chinese, German and Arabic.

He said that the AIOU has arranged online programmes in French with the cooperation of the French Online Department, which has benefited thousands of students.

Dr Siddiqui appreciated French-language Department head Farah Sheikh for her dedication in promoting the French language. (Agencies)

### China-DPRK Border Trade Zone Approved

SHENYANG - A border trade zone between China and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), located in northeast China's Liaoning Province, has been approved, the provincial government announced on Monday.

According to the city's foreign trade bureau, the Guomenwan border trade zone covers 40,000 square meters of land in the border city of Dandong. It is expected to open in October. Residents living within 20 kilom-

eters of the border will be able to exchange commodities with people from the DPRK and enjoy a duty-free policy on goods purchased for less than 8,000 yuan (1,288 U.S. dollars) per day, authorities with the bureau said.

Dandong is the key hub for trade, investment and tourism between China and the DPRK. There are more than 600 border trade enterprises in the city, and trade with the DPRK accounts for 40 percent of the city's total trade turnover. (Xinhua)

## Philippines, Iraq to Boost Ties

MANILA - Iraq is hoping to further enhance its level of cooperation with the Philippines by forging agreements in various areas during the 8th Joint Commission Meeting to be held in Manila in August, the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) said Monday.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Ibrahim Al-Jaafari ex-

pressed Baghdad's desire during a recent courtesy call of new Philippine ambassador to Iraq Elmer Cato. In response, Cato conveyed to Jaafari the importance the Philippines places in its relations with Iraq as well as Manila's desire to further enhance the level of cooperation with Baghdad, the DFA said. (Xinhua)