

WHO Urges Focus on Health in Dealing with Climate Change

MARRAKECH, Morocco - The World Health Organization (WHO) called on Friday for giving health a central priority in the Climate Change Conference (COP22), currently held in Morocco, and including it in the implementation of the Paris Agreement. According to a WHO statement, almost one quarter of the global burden of disease and approximately 12.6 million deaths each year are attributable to avoidable environmental risk factors, such as air, water and soil pollution, chemical exposures and ultraviolet radiation.

Global environmental and social changes, including



climate change, exacerbate many of these risks, it added. Despite the growing evidence of the effect of environmental risk factors on health, political action and investments remain largely insufficient: only

about 3 percent of health resources are invested in prevention, with approximately 97 percent are spent on treatment, increasing healthcare costs, it pointed out. Health gains represent major social and economic benefits of environmental protection, and therefore should be put forward as key motivating forces for public support and political action, it said. Morocco, the WHO and the United Nations Environment Programme will host later in the day a ministerial meeting on health, environment and climate change. The meeting will bring together health and ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Terrorists Use Chemical Weapons in Syria's Aleppo: Russian Defense Ministry

MOSCOW - Russia's Defense Ministry said Friday that it has discovered proof of terrorists using chemical weapons against civilians and the Syrian military in the southwestern outskirts of the Syrian city Aleppo. "Experts of the Russian Defense Ministry have found unexploded artillery ammunition of the terrorists containing toxic substances," the ministry's spokesman Maj. Gen. Igor Konashenkov said in a statement.

An express test of the munitions, shell fragments

and soil samples in a mobile laboratory revealed with a very high probability that the substances used were chlorine and white phosphorus, the statement said. A profound analysis of the toxic substances found in Aleppo will be conducted in the laboratory of the Scientific Center of the Russian Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Protection Troops, licensed by the Organization for the



Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), it added. The situation in the contested city of Aleppo has gone downhill since several

rounds of truce efforts have barely held as militants in eastern Aleppo reportedly violated the ceasefire, killing civilians. (Xinhua)

Turkey Starts Free Trade Agreement Negotiation with Britain

ANKARA - Turkey has started technical negotiations of a free trade agreement with Britain once it leaves the EU, Turkish Economy Minister Nihat Zeybekci said Thursday, local media reported. "We have decided to bring online a wide-range trade deal between the two countries once Britain leaves the EU," Zeybekci told the parliament's planning and budgetary commission in Ankara. He said that the scope of the agreement will be at least as wide as that of the

Customs Union Agreement between Turkey and the EU, state-run Anadolu Agency reported.

Turkish officials previously pledged that Brexit would not affect Turkey's exports to the EU and Britain.

Turkey's government vowed after Brexit vote that it would continue to take steps to maintain and strengthen investment, trade and financial relations with Britain.

Turkey's exports to Britain totalled 10.55 billion ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

G20 Members Not Raising Barriers to Investment: Report

GENEVA - Respecting commitments made at the Hangzhou summit in September, G20 members are not raising new barriers to investment, according to a joint report released on Thursday by UNCTAD and the OECD. "Our report shows that in general fears of new protectionism are not emerging, and we see more measures to promote foreign investment instead," said James Zhan, director of UNCTAD's Investment and Enterprise Division.

According to the 16th Report on G20 Investment Measures, nine G20 members introduced policy measures on foreign direct investment (FDI) for the period mid-May to mid-October 2016. The report cautioned that despite the encouraging findings overall, multiple restrictions on international investment remain in many sectors in G20 members. These restrictions are either explicit in rules or more implicit through the application ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

China, U.S. to Hold Annual Trade Talks

BEIJING - China and the United States will hold their annual talks on commerce and trade in Washington D.C., a Foreign Ministry spokesperson announced on Friday.

The 27th Session of the China-U.S. Joint Commission on Commerce and Trade (JCCT) is slated for Nov. 21 to 23, spokesperson Lu Kang said at a routine press briefing.

Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang, U.S. Secretary of Commerce Penny Pritzker and Trade Representative Michael Froman will co-chair the talks. U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack will also attend.

In the last high-level economic dialogue between China and the U.S. this year, the two sides will exchange ideas of important economic and trade issues, as well as ways to expand cooperation.

On the sidelines of the JCCT, the two sides will also hold a CEO roundtable conference, and conferences on the digital economy and agriculture and food. In 2015, U.S. was China's second largest trade



partner, biggest export market and the fourth largest source of imports. China was the largest trade partner and import source, and the third export market of

the U.S. The bilateral trade volume of goods stood at 558.4 billion U.S. dollars, with more than 160 billion U.S. dollars of mutual investment. (Xinhua)

Damascus, Allies Upbeat on Trump Win, Await His Policies

BEIRUT - Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and his allies hope to benefit from Donald Trump's election win, believing it has saved them from the risks of an interventionist Clinton administration. Trump's win may have already shifted the course of the Russian-backed military campaign in Aleppo. A senior Assad official told Reuters that plans to capture the rebel-held east by January were shaped around an assumption Clinton would win.

The confidence in Damascus will have been justified if some of Trump's comments on Syria crystallize into policy, though there are ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

Russian State Duma Ratifies China-Russia Anti-Terrorism Agreement

MOSCOW - The Russian State Duma, or the lower house of parliament, ratified an agreement on Friday between China and Russia on cooperation in fighting against terrorism, separatism and extremism. Russian President Vladimir Putin submitted the agreement to the State Duma for parliamentary ratification on Sept. 28. The agreement, signed in Beijing on Sept. 27, 2010, is aimed at developing bilateral cooperation in combating terrorism, separatism and extremism by taking joint measures to prevent and stop terrorist attacks. The two countries will exchange information in fighting criminal activities of terrorists and extremists, hold regular meetings and consultations, and work together to prevent and suppress crimes in the border regions between China...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Close to 48,000 Displaced Since Beginning of Mosul Operations: UNHCR

GENEVA - A number of 47,730 civilians have fled their homes since military operations to retake the Islamic State (IS) controlled Iraqi city of Mosul began last month, the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) reported Friday.

"Numbers have approximately doubled in the last week and are expected to continue to rise as the fighting continues," the agency warned in a statement.

"Several significant population movements from Mosul were recorded in the last week, especially around Gogjali and the city's eastern neighbor-



hoods," it added. As fighting for one of the IS last strongholds in the regions continues, these developments come amid ongoing reports of mass killings, summary executions and sexual exploitation carried out by IS fighters. "Heart-breaking

images of children being forced to carry out executions, stories of women being 'redistributed' among ISIL fighters, of killings for possession of SIM cards, and killings of those perceived to be opposed to ISIL's takfiri doctrines," the ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Georgia, NATO Launch 2nd Joint Military Drill in 2016

TBILISI - The NATO-Georgia Exercise 2016 kicked off at the Joint Training and Evaluation Center in Georgia's Krtsanisi near Tbilisi on Thursday.

According to the Georgian Defense Ministry, along with Georgian soldiers, servicemen from 11 NATO member states, namely Turkey, Latvia, Lithuania, the Netherlands, Romania, Hungary, Bulgaria, Belgium, Slovenia, Britain and the United States and two NATO partner states, Ukraine and the former Yugoslav

Republic of Macedonia, will participate in the drills.

The exercise aims to enhance the interoperability of Georgia and its NATO partners, as well as command and control capabilities, said the ministry.

"I welcome the start of the joint drills, the second NATO-Georgia exercise, which runs from Nov. 10 to 21, another milestone in the long-standing, deep cooperation between NATO and Georgia and further ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Iraqi Forces Continue Clashes with IS in Mosul



MOSUL, Iraq - Iraqi security forces continued on Thursday their advance near the city of Mosul and recaptured a village from the Islamic State (IS) militants, security sources said.

The Iraqi army and allied Sunni tribal fighters made a new progress and took control of the village of Abbas al-Rajab near the archeological site of Nimrud, which located some 30 km south of Mosul, according to a statement by a media office affiliated to the Joint Operations Command (JOC).

The troops are expected to recapture the ancient Assyrian archeological site of Nimrud, which was founded in the 13th century B.C. and became the capital of Assyrian empire. The move was part of a campaign against heritage sites under the control of the IS extremist militants, in addition to other archeological sites in the ancient province of Nineveh.

Also in the day, the troops fought fierce clashes with IS militants in the districts of Intisar, Jadidat al-Mufti and Shaymaa in the eastern side of Mosul, killing 13 militants, including a local IS leader named Khalid al-Mtaiwati, and destroying three booby trapped motorcycles, the statement said. Earlier in the month, the Iraqi army made a significant progress at the eastern side of Mosul, and managed to seize six districts. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China to Deepen Cooperation, Partnership with Britain: Vice Premier

LONDON - China is willing to deepen cooperation with the new British government and continue to enhance partnership, said Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai Thursday.

Ma made the remarks when co-chairing the eighth China-Britain Economic and Financial Dialogue with British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond.

Sixty-three outcomes were reached after the two sides held fruitful discussions on the macroeconomy and relevant policies, trade investment and market access, financial service

and market, as well as infrastructure and industrial strategies.

Ma said that in September, leaders of the two countries, both important members in the world, met in Hangzhou, where they reaffirmed the commitment to working together for the "Golden Era" of bilateral relations, and blueprint the practical cooperation in economic and trade relations.

The Chinese vice premier pointed out that the China-Britain Economic and Financial Dialogue, a high-level mechanism to implement the two sides' ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Iran will Take Other Options if JCPOA not Honored: FM

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has reaffirmed the Islamic Republic's full commitment to last year's nuclear agreement with the six world powers but warned of "other options" at Tehran's disposal in case of failure to comply with the deal by other sides.

Speaking in a joint press conference with his Czech counterpart Lubomir Zaoralek in Prague on Friday, Zarif criticized the United States for "not fully implementing" its obligations under the nuclear agreement, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries.

"Iran has been implementing its part of the

bargain. Unfortunately, the United States, even during the current administration, has not fully implemented its part of the bargain but we believe that JCPOA is a reasonable agreement good for everybody," he said.

"That's our preference. It doesn't mean that we do not have other options. Iran wants to remain committed to JCPOA provided that everybody else is prepared to do the same," the Iranian foreign minister pointed out.

Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia - plus Germany started to implement the JCPOA on January 16. (Presstv)

Russia, Turkmenistan Suspend Arbitration Dispute on Gas Supply

ASHGABAT - The Russian company Gazprom and Turkmenistan's Turkmen Gas State Concern have suspended arbitration dispute over gas supply due to the progress in peaceful settlement of the issue, Turkmenistan's Oil and Gas Complex said citing a memorandum on the release of Gazprom Eurobonds.

Gazprom has been since 2008 trying to have the procurement price of the Turkmen gas revised. It bought 10 billion cubic meters of gas per year from Turkmenistan according to the agreement

signed in 2010. Gazprom filed a suit against Turkmen Gas in the Stockholm arbitration court in 2015 demanding retroactive payments worth \$5 billion for the Turkmen gas supply in 2010-2015.

In 2015, the Russian company decided to reduce the volume of purchases to 4 billion cubic meters. In the spring of 2015, Turkmenistan's Ministry of Oil and Gas said that Gazprom does not fully pay for the supplies starting from early 2015 and called the Russian company "an insolvent partner." (Trend)

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan Taking Cautious Steps to End Dam Impasse

DUSHANBE - Demonstrating his hands-on management style, Tajikistan's president donned a hardhat earlier this month, clambered into a bulldozer and pushed rocks into the Vakhsh River to get work started on what is slated to become the world's highest dam.

The public relations exercise was intended to cast Emomali Rahmon as a practical man of action. But it also marked a major stride toward finally building the Rogun hydropower plant - a project that could, when completed, solve Tajikistan's electricity shortage woes and turn the

country into a net power exporter.

In the past, Rahmon's actions would have quickly drawn an angry reaction from neighboring Uzbekistan, which lies downstream from the dam. But these days it is a different story. Instead of stamping their feet, officials in Tashkent are maintaining a studied silence, to many observers' astonishment. "I am amazed at how Tashkent is remaining so silent. The closure of the Vakhsh River is a threat to one of the main areas of our economy - the entire agricultural sector of Uzbekistan," said Anvar Nazirov, a political analyst in Uzbekistan. (Eurasianet)