

U.S. Congress' Overriding Obama's Veto of 9/11 Bill Draws Criticism, Could Bring Negative Impacts

BEIJING - U.S. Congress' overriding President Barack Obama's veto of a bill allowing Sept. 11 victims to sue Saudi Arabia not only has drawn criticism from the kingdom, but also is considered by many as a move that could bring negative impacts.

U.S. Congress voted Wednesday to override Obama's veto of the Justice Against Sponsors of Terrorism Act, or JASTA. The bill, which has now become law, grants an exception to the legal principle of sovereign immunity in cases of terrorism on U.S. soil. Survivors and families of the Sept. 11, 2001 victims have been trying to sue the



Saudi royal family, Saudi banks and charities in U.S. courts, on the grounds that the Saudi government provided financial support for terrorism.

The families' efforts have largely been stymied, in part because of a 1976 law that gives foreign nations some immunity from lawsuits in American courts. Now with JASTA enacted into law, the families are allowed to move forward with a case they filed in 2003 against Saudi Arabia in a New York federal court. Saudi Arabia was home to 15 of the 19 al-Qaida hijackers who carried out the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks that ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Clinton Expected to Get Bounce in Polls after First Presidential Debate

WASHINGTON - After scoring big in Monday's first U.S. presidential debate, Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton is likely to see a boost in the polls, making it more difficult for rival Donald Trump to catch up, experts said. Clinton and Trump squared off on national TV on Monday night in their first one-on-one debate, which Clinton is perceived to have won. Experts said Trump missed a number of opportunities in the debate, such as talking about the econ-

omy, the no. 1 issue of concern for Americans and an area in which the billionaire businessman has an advantage. While Trump came charging out of the gate at the start, Clinton dominated him more and more as the night went on. Clinton's win should help her rise in the polls, al-



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No Post-Brexit Shock to British Economy in July: ONS

LONDON - Figures released Friday showed that Britain's service sector grew strongly in the first full month after the June 23 referendum decision to quit the European Union. Commenting on the new figures, Darren Morgan, head of GDP at the Office for National Statistics (ONS), said the fresh data supports the view that there has been no sign of an immediate post-Brexit shock to the British economy. Morgan added the

full picture continues to emerge. Morgan said: "Despite some very weak indicators appearing in the immediate aftermath of the referendum, estimates gathered by ONS from more than 23,000 firms now suggest that the services sector -- which accounts for three quarters of the economy -- in fact grew strongly in July." "ONS is also developing new sources of data so as to provide a faster and ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Turkey's Main Opposition Leader against Extended State of Emergency

ISTANBUL - The leader of Turkey's main opposition party on Friday voiced opposition to the extension of a state of emergency imposed in the wake of a failed coup in July. "The state of emergency should be terminated as quickly as possible," Kemal Kilicdaroglu, the leader of the Republican People's Party (CHP), told the foreign press in Istanbul, saying its prolongation would strengthen the perception of a "counter-coup."

"Otherwise Turkey's democratic path would be in jeopardy," he cautioned. A day earlier, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan announced the government's intention to extend for another three months the state of emergency declared five days after the outbreak of a coup plot on July 15, in which more than 240 people were killed and nearly 2,200 others injured. In the ongoing crack ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

4th BRICS Education Summit Held in New Delhi

NEW DELHI - The 4th Meeting of BRICS Ministers of Education was held here Friday in a bid to promote education cooperation and people to people exchanges among the five countries before the upcoming BRICS Leaders' Meeting this October. It is an important BRICS meeting after the informal meeting among BRICS leaders during the 11th G20 Summit held in Hangzhou this September. The meeting gathered delegations from the



BRICS members, namely Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa. In his speech, Hao Ping, China's Vice Education

Minister Hao Ping said China faces three major challenges in educational development and reform. Firstly, China is now running the largest education system in the world, which demands constant and huge investment. ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Humanitarian Crisis Worsens Amid Peace Stalemate in Yemen

SANAA - "I don't think the word 'human' applies to the people in western Yemen who lack all basic services," Ibrahim Al-Kala'e said while describing the suffering in Hodeida province. "All people living in the coastline areas don't have access to any basic services -- no food, no hospitals, no clean water, no education and no jobs," he said. "All we have is a highway." Hodeida has the highest rates of poverty and malnutrition in Yemen. Abdullah Ahmed, a father to one kid, said all families in his village of Al-Dhukair are coping with harsh conditions as war has deepened their suffering. "All we can do these days is trading handicrafts for a few thousands Yemeni ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Migrant Pressure Builds in Serbia despite Tighter Border Controls

VRSKA CUKA, Serbia - Across south-east Europe, governments are throwing up barriers to keep out migrants arriving via Turkey, but numbers are still creeping up as rougher seas lead more to try this Balkan route rather than risk a Mediterranean crossing. Since July, Serbian border guards have stopped more than 10,000 migrants attempting to cross from Bulgaria and Macedonia, but charities have reported sharply lengthening queues for food in Serbian refugee camps over recent days. Last autumn, hundreds of thousands of migrants trekked up from Turkey through the rocky Balkan peninsula, hoping to enter the European Union's passport-free Schengen zone by crossing into ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

EU Agrees to Ratify Paris Agreement

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) environment ministers on Friday agreed to ratify the Paris Agreement by the EU, a statement said. "All member states greenlight early EU ratification of Paris Agreement. What some believed impossible is now real," European Council President Donald Tusk said on his twitter account.

"I am happy to see that today the member states decided to make history together and bring closer the entry into force of the first ever universally binding climate change agreement," European



Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said. This agreement, adopted by 195 countries in December 2015 at the Paris climate conference (COP21), sets the frame-

work for global action on climate change. The Agreement will enter into force 30 days after at least 55 countries, representing at least 55 percent of global emissions have ratified. (Xinhua)

Senior UN Officials Call for End to Bombing in North Syria

UNITED NATIONS - Senior UN officials on Thursday called for an end to bombing in north Syria in order to protect civilians in the war-torn region, saying that some 320 civilians were killed and 765 others injured in eastern Aleppo in the first days of the offensive.

The UN under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs, Stephen O'Brien, told the UN Security Council that the past seven days have seen an intensification of attacks across Syria.

From airstrikes in Deir Ezzour, to airstrikes and ground attacks in Aleppo, Hama, Homs, Idleb and Rural Damascus and other governorates, fighting has intensified despite a one-week lull when the cessation of hostilities was reinstated, albeit with violations on all sides. O'Brien, who is also UN emergency relief coordinator, said that nowhere has the fighting been more intense in the last days than in besieged east Aleppo, where estimates are that ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Obama, Merkel Slam Russia, Syrian Gov't Airstrikes on Aleppo

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Barack Obama and German Chancellor Angela Merkel slammed airstrikes by Russia and the Syrian government on the northern Syrian city of Aleppo during a phone conversation on Thursday.

Obama and Merkel believed Russia and the Syrian government "bear special responsibility for ending the fighting in Syria and granting the UN humanitarian access to besieged and hard to reach areas in Syria," said a White House statement.

Heavy aerial bombardments hitting east Aleppo and indiscriminate shelling in western parts of the city are threatening the lives of civilians while further hampering the delivery of critical aid, Ramzy Ezzeldin Ramzy, UN Deputy Special Envoy for Syria, said in Geneva on Thursday.

On Sept. 10, Russia and the United States announced a landmark agreement on a nationwide cease-fire in Syria, which both sides hoped would lead to their countries' military cooperation to end more than five years of bloodshed there. However, crossfire resumed in the first hours after the week-long truce deal expired on Sept. 19, with both parties trading accusations of failures to implement the deal.

At a conference in Washington hosted by the Aspen Institute and the Atlantic Council on Thursday, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said that the United States is "on the verge" of calling off talks with Russia over military cooperation in Syria after the failure of the ceasefire. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Pakistan Army the Most Battle Hardened Force in the World: COAS

RAWALPINDI - The Pakistan Army is the most battle hardened army in the world and this is primarily due to the highest standard of physical fitness, professionalism and motivation of officers and men who face the challenges dauntlessly, said Pakistan's Army Chief Gen Raheel Sharif. He said this at the finals of the fourth COAS Young Soldiers Inter-Central Physical Agility and Combat Efficiency System (PACES) Championship at the FF Centre during a visit to Abbotabad on Thursday. He also awarded prizes to

the winners. A total of 406 contestants from 22 regimental centres participated in the championship. Sepoy Sheeraz Khan did 1,214 push-ups in 30 minutes to clinch the first position in this category. Sepoy Jamshaid Khan stood first in the chin-ups competition by doing 68 chin-ups. Sapper Akmal Hussain did 2,134 sit-ups to secure the first position in the category. Sepoy Muhammad Asif was declared 'fit of the fittest' in the competition by securing 2,474 points. The COAS appreciated ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

OSCE Holding Military Consultations in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Implementation of commitments under the OSCE Vienna Document 2011, a politically-binding document addressing confidence- and security-building measures in the military sphere, was in focus of an OSCE-organized seminar for officials from the Defense Ministry of Turkmenistan that will be concluded Sept. 30 in Ashgabat, said the OSCE in a message.

The five-day event provided a detailed overview of the Vienna Document, OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and other agreed confidence- and security-building measures. The participants exam-

ined the functions of the OSCE Communications Network and shared views on the role of the information exchange. "In accordance with the Vienna Document, OSCE participating states should provide each other with information about their military forces, notify ahead of time about major military activities and accept reciprocal inspections," said Natalya Drozd, head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat. "This seminar is a follow up to the Center's activities aimed at promoting implementation of confidence- and security-building measures in Turkmenistan, and we firmly believe that it will ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Israel Nukes Threaten World Peace, Security: Iran IAEA Envoy

TEHRAN - The Iranian ambassador to the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) has described the Israeli regime's nuclear weapons program as a source of concern among Middle East states, and a serious and continued threat to the regional and international peace and security. Addressing the 60th Annual Regular Session of the IAEA General Conference in the Austrian capital city of Vienna on Thursday evening, Reza Najafi stated that Israel's policy of nuclear ambiguity regarding its nuclear weapons program

poses serious threats to the international peace and security, calling for the IAEA inspection of the regime's secret nuclear sites. Najafi further criticized some world powers for their unconditional support for and technical nuclear cooperation with Israel in violation of international law and regulations. The Iranian ambassador to the UN nuclear agency also called for an end to the double standards practiced by the countries that assist Israel with its nuclear program. ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Korea, Uzbekistan Sign MoU on Infrastructure Projects

TASHKENT - South Korea and Uzbekistan on Thursday signed a memorandum of understanding on new infrastructure projects in the Central Asian country, the Finance Ministry here said. South Korea's Finance Minister Yoo Il-ho and his Uzbek counterpart Rustam Azimov held a meeting in Seoul to discuss ways to bolster economic cooperation between the two countries and expand the participation of South Korean companies in government-led projects in Tashkent, according to the ministry. Under the MOU, the Seoul government will contribute to a fund to build an airport passen-

ger terminal in Tashkent worth US\$350 million and establish a national data center. South Korea will invest a total of \$250 million through the Korea Economic Development Cooperation Fund or EDCE, a state-run fund launched in 1987 aimed at helping developing and less-developed countries by providing loans that carry low interest rates. Uzbekistan will shoulder \$100 million for the project. "I expect South Korea and Uzbek companies to become close cooperative business partners to carry out such projects," Yoo said. "The government will seek ways to support them." (Monitoring Desk)