

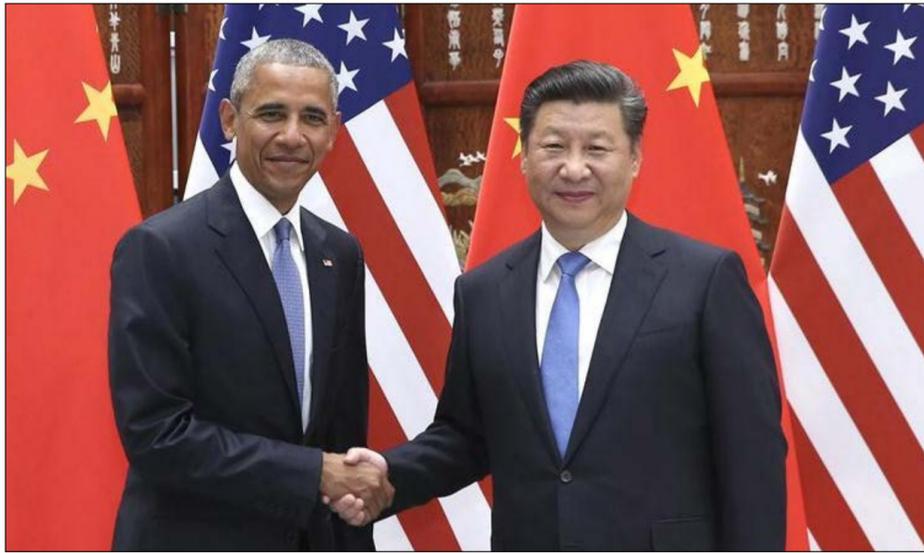
Xi Meets Obama Ahead of G20 Summit

HANGZHOU - Chinese President Xi Jinping met with his U.S. counterpart Barack Obama in the eastern city of Hangzhou on Saturday, on the eve of the G20 summit.

Xi spoke highly of the interactions between the two heads of state, as their previous meetings "all produced important consensus."

In particular, the decision to build a new type of major country relations between China and the United States has led to a series of concrete achievements in bilateral ties, Xi said.

Two-way trade, investment and personnel exchanges are at historical



highs, he said, and both countries have worked together in combating climate change, advancing negotiations on a bilateral investment treaty, and establishing a mutual trust mechanism between the two militaries.

Important progress was also made in fighting cyber crimes, coping with the Ebola epidemic in Africa, and facilitating a comprehensive agreement on the Iranian nuclear issue, Xi said.

"All these have showcased the strategic importance and global influence of Sino-U.S. relations," the Chinese president said. (Xinhua)

Merkel Expects Bilateral Discussions on Current Crises at G20 Summit

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Saturday that she hopes to have many bilateral discussions to address Ukraine, Syria and refugee issues during the G20 Summit in China's Hangzhou.

In her weekly video message, Merkel said she looks forward to a meeting during which leaders from G20 members "make it clear that they want to cooperate."

The G20 members ac-

count for 80 percent of the world's economy and three quarters of the international trade. If they agree on certain principles and rules, other bodies such as the United Nations General Assembly could take decisions on those basis, said Merkel. Merkel will attend the G20 summit in Hangzhou from September 4 to 5. Germany will assume the G20 presidency in December and host next year's G20 summit. (Xinhua)

Hillary Clinton Walks Back Main Email Defense in FBI Interview

WASHINGTON - In what appeared to be a major departure from her previous defense on email practices while serving as the U.S. top diplomat, Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton told FBI investigators in July that she did not ask permission for her private email setup, said an FBI file released on Friday.

In a rare move, the FBI released a 58-page document that included a summary of its interview with Clinton on July 2 on email

probe and other details of its investigation into Clinton's use of the private email setup as secretary of state.

According to the interview summary, Clinton told federal investigators that she "did not explicitly request permission to use a private server or email address," contradicting her past public defense that her use of a private email account for business was allowed by the State Department.

In her interview with FBI



investigators, Clinton said she believed "everyone at State" knew she had a personal email address, and she did not recall receiv-

ing any emails she thought should not be on an unclassified system. "She relied on State officials to ... (More on P4)... (17)

UNEP Lauds China, U.S. for Ratifying Paris Agreement

NAIROBI - The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) on Saturday lauded China and the United States for ratifying the Paris Agreement on the fight against global warming.

UNEP Executive Director Erik Solheim said the move by the two of the world's largest economies was significant. "This announcement is hugely important. The leadership of China and the U.S. is crucial to taking the Paris Agreement forward. They bring significant additional momentum to keeping

global warming under 2 degrees," Solheim said in a statement issued in Nairobi.

Presidents of China and the United States handed over their countries' instruments of joining the Paris Agreement separately to UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Saturday in China's Hangzhou. The Paris Agreement, which was sealed in December 2015 after two weeks of intense negotiations, needs to be ratified by 55 countries, representing 55 percent of global ... (More on P4)... (18)

OSCE Reports Drop in Eastern Ukraine Violence Amid Ceasefire

KIEV - The Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) said Friday that a ceasefire established in eastern Ukraine on Thursday has led to a decrease in the level of fighting in the region. "Now, we have already noted a drop in violence, but it is still too early to say if the sides are truly committed to adherence," Alexander Hug, the deputy chief monitor of the OSCE special monitoring mission to Ukraine, told reporters. He voiced hopes that the conflicting parties will



manage to observe the truce, which was established to allow children quietly go to school, as the similar ceasefire deal in 2015 has resulted in a con-

siderable decrease of the hostilities. Ukrainian military spokesman Andriy Lysenko has confirmed that the ceasefire in eastern regions is generally holding, despite sporadic violations, saying that there were no combat casualties among government soldiers in the past day. (Xinhua)

Turkish Tanks Cross into Syria to Fight IS

ANKARA - The Turkish tanks crossed into northern Syria from the southeastern Turkish province of Kilis on Saturday, Turkish Daily Sabah reported. The tanks used howitzers to pound the Islamic State (IS) positions after entering the northern Syrian town of al-Rai, it said.

Meanwhile, 3 rockets from IS-controlled northern Syria landed in Kilis at noon, Dogan News Agency reported. Having captured the Syrian town of Jarablus and cleared the majority of IS militants from the area in cooperation with the Free Syrian Army, a Syrian rebel group against the Syrian government, the Turkish army is now gathering forces in Elbeyli, a border district in Kilis, to remove the presence of the IS from the area between Jarablus and Turkey's Co-banbey. On Aug. 24, the Turkish army launched the Euphrates Shield cross-border operation to drive out the IS militants in Syria's northern border town of Jarablus, according to a statement from the prime minister's office.

During the operation, the Turkish soldiers and tanks entered Syria from Karkamis in southeastern Turkish province of Gaziantep. (Xinhua)

Putin Hopes Russia's New Oceanarium to Become Center of Int'l Cooperation

VLADIVOSTOK - Russian President Vladimir Putin said Saturday that he hopes a new oceanarium located on Russky Island will become a center of international cooperation. "I want to thank President of the Republic of Korea Park Geun-hye and Prime Minister of Japan Shinzo Abe for their participation in the oceanarium opening," Putin said during a tour of the Primorye Oceanarium on the sidelines of an international economic forum.

"I hope that it will become the center of international



cooperation," he added. He said all the information in the oceanarium will be provided not only in the Russian, Chinese and English languages, but also in Japanese and Korean.

The Russian president also said he hoped that the Primorye Oceanarium would become one of the world's largest facilities of its kind. The oceanarium's main ... (More on P4)... (19)

Britain's Theresa May Reaffirms "Golden Era" for Sino-British Ties

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May reaffirmed Saturday that Sino-British relations were in a "golden era", as she left for the G20 meeting in China, British media Sky News reported.

This is the first time for May to use the term "golden era" to describe Sino-British ties since she took office as prime minister in July. Speaking at Heathrow before boarding a Royal Air Force plane to Hangzhou, she said: "This is a golden era for UK-China relations and one of the things I will be doing at the G20 is obviously talking to President Xi about about how we can develop the strategic partnership that we have be-

tween the UK and China." "The message for the G20 is that Britain is open for business, as a bold, confident, outward-looking country we will be playing a key role on the world stage," she added in a statement. The prime minister said she will also be talking to other world leaders about how to develop free trade around the world and Britain wants to seize those opportunities. "My ambition is that Britain will be a global leader in free trade," she said, adding that she will be talking to other world leaders about the opportunities for trade around the globe that will open up for Britain following Brexit. (Xinhua)

Trump's Tough Words on Immigration Irritate Mexicans, Hispanic Partners

WASHINGTON - U.S. Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump's rants on illegal immigration has gone so far this time that the Mexican president called him "a real threat" and several of his Hispanic campaign partners are leaving. Hours after a meeting with Mexican President Pena Nieto on Wednesday, Trump promised a harsh crackdown on illegal, particularly criminal, immigrants in a speech in Phoenix, Arizona state.

Repeating the idea to erect a wall on borders with Mexico, he said he would force the Latin American country to pay for the cost. Given Trump's previous remarks calling Mexican immigrants rapists and killers, Nieto toughened his stance and branded the U.S. presidential candidate "a real threat" to Mexico in a speech with young people. Previously, Nieto was criticized for being too soft on Trump for not blasting the later's "insulting" attitude face in face. Back ... (More on P4)... (20)

French FM Says Working with Partners to Find Rapid Solution to Gabon Crisis

PARIS - France was working with partners to find a rapid solution to end the crisis in Gabon where disputed vote results prompted violent clashes, French Foreign Ministry Jean-Marc Ayrault said on Friday. "The French authorities are in contact with all parties, including our African and international partners, to find a quick solution to this crisis," the French top diplomat said. Ayrault asked the Gabonese authorities "to immediately" release opposition members who

Nieghbor News

Beijing Unveils Key Infrastructure Projects for Coming five Years

BEIJING - Beijing has unveiled 10 major infrastructure construction projects for the coming five years to address some of the challenges faced by the overcrowded metropolitan area. The projects cover transportation, water supply, sewage, the environment and green energy, according to a plan on Beijing's major infrastructure development for the 13th Five-Year Plan, released by the municipal commission of development and reform Friday.

From now until 2020, Beijing will improve and develop public and green transportation: subway and light rail track will exceed 900

km kilometers. In 90 percent of downtown locations, a subway station will be available within a radius of 750 meters.

Meanwhile, a network of 3,200 km of bike lanes will be built.

By 2020, 75 percent of commuters in the city proper will take green transportation.

To ensure adequate water supply for its fast growing population, Beijing will build or renovate 1,000 km of water pipes in the city proper. In the meantime, the city will continue to promote water saving. By 2020, Beijing's consumption of recycled water will reach 1.2 billion cubic meters. (Xinhua)

No Human Rights Rapporteur Warranted on Iran: Official

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian official slams as unjustified and invalid the appointment of any UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always maintained a fundamental stance on the appointment of a special rapporteur with a country mandate," Mohammad Javad Larjani, the secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights, said on Saturday.

He criticized the West's dual policies that had led to such an assignment.

"Iran believes that such

an appointment stems from double standard policies and selective approaches of certain countries within the framework of the UN Human Rights Council," Larjani added.

He made the remarks after the UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran, Ahmed Shaheed, said in his twitter account on Wednesday that Pakistani human rights activist Asma Jahangir will replace him.

Shaheed also expressed his congratulations to Jahangir and said she will start her work in November. (Presstv)

Militants Who Stormed Peshawar's Christian Colony Were Foreigners: Nisar

MARDAN - The four suicide bombers who stormed Peshawar's Christian Colony a day earlier were foreigners but it was yet to be ascertained which countries they belonged to, Interior Minister Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan said on Saturday. "We had intelligence alert about a possible militant attack in three to four areas in Peshawar," Nisar said during a press briefing in Mardan.

Terrorists struck Mardan and Peshawar on Friday, killing 14 people and injuring 49 in a day that could have

ended with a higher number of deaths had four of the suicide bombers not been killed before they could set off their explosives.

"Pakistan's security forces have won a difficult war but there is still more to be done to eradicate terrorism entirely," Nisar said, adding that "previously there were attacks every other day, now they happen in months".

However, the interior minister admitted that the security situation in the country is not entirely under control. (Monitoring Desk)

Islam Karimov Dedicates Life to Uzbekistan's Formation

TASHKENT - Islam Karimov dedicated his life to Uzbekistan's formation, Uzbek Prime Minister Shavkat Mirziyoyev said at a farewell ceremony for the country's first president on Saturday.

Mirziyoyev recalled the first, the most difficult stages of Uzbekistan's formation, extremists and terrorists who were trying to destabilize the country.

"Our nation remembers and will never forget the courage shown by the president to preserve the independence of Uzbekistan, peaceful life, happy future of our children," he added.

Mirziyoyev stressed that President Karimov was able to see the prospects, took people's problems, hopes

and dreams to heart.

"The president made decisions in the most crucial moments to ensure the development of the country's priority directions," he added.

The farewell ceremony is being held in the presidential residence in Samarkand.

Government and parliament officials, representatives of public, foreign delegations have gathered in the hall hosting the ceremony.

Delegations from more than 20 countries as well as a number of international organizations have arrived in Samarkand for the Uzbek president's funeral. Uzbekistan's President Islam Karimov passed away Sept. 2 after suffering a stroke. (Trend)