

DPRK's Fifth Nuclear Tests

BEIJING - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) announced Friday that it has carried out a nuclear warhead explosion, according to state-run television. It is the country's fifth nuclear test. The following is a review of the country's previous nuclear tests.

Oct. 9, 2006 -- The official KCNA news agency reports that the DPRK conducted a successful nuclear test in North Hamgyong province in the country's northeast. The UN Security Council on Oct. 14 passes Resolution 1718 to condemn the test.

May 25, 2009 -- The DPRK conducts its second nuclear test. The KCNA says that DPRK scientists have been able to in-



crease the explosive power and control level of the bomb compared with the first test.

The test prompts UN Security Council Resolution 1874, which voices "the strongest condemnation" against DPRK authorities and demands the country stop further nuclear weapons-related activities. Feb. 12, 2013 -- The DPRK carries out a third nuclear test, which the KCNA describes as "high level, safe and perfect." South Korea estimates the bomb has a power equal to 6,000-7,000 tons of TNT. The UN Security Council unanimously passes Resolution 2094 on March 7, demanding the DPRK give up its nuclear weapons project and return to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty. (Xinhua)

UNSC to Hold Closed-Door Meeting on DPRK Nuclear Test

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council will hold a closed-door meeting on Friday afternoon on the latest nuclear test conducted by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). According to UN Spokesperson's Office, the closed-door meeting is scheduled to take place at 3 p.m. local time (1900 GMT).

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will speak to the press on the DPRK's nuclear test at noon, said

the office.

The DPRK said earlier Friday that it has carried out a nuclear warhead explosion test, according to the state-run television. It is the country's fifth nuclear test.

The Security Council has adopted five resolutions to curb the DPRK's nuclear and missile programs. The latest one adopted in March imposes the most severe sanctions yet on the country, including an export ban and asset freeze. (Xinhua)

Japan Calls DPRK Nuke Test "Intolerable," will Lodge Protest with Pyongyang

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said Friday that Japan had confirmed the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) had conducted a nuclear test earlier in the day and described the latest move following a series of ballistic missile launches and fourth nuclear test in January as "intolerable." Abe said that Tokyo would lodge an official protest to the nuclear test with Pyongyang and that further sanctions were being mulled.

"After taking into account

various pieces of information in a comprehensive manner, the government has deemed that North Korea conducted a nuclear test," the Japanese prime minister said. While condemning the test in the "strongest terms," Abe added in a statement, "We simply cannot tolerate the fact that North Korea forced through a nuclear test." The Japanese leader went on to say that the DPRK's continued development significantly undermines peace and safety in the region....(More on P4)...(21)

Indian PM to Visit Sri Lanka Next Year



COLOMBO - Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will arrive in Sri Lanka for a visit next year, the government information department said on Friday.

Modi's visit was discussed when an Indian delegation including Indian Health Minister J.P. Nadda, and India's High Commissioner to Sri Lanka, V.K. Singha met with Sri Lankan Health Minister Rajitha Senarathne alongside the 69th Session of the WHO-SEARO in Colombo.

The government information department said that the Indian prime minister will open a base hospital in Hatton, in Central Sri Lanka, which is developed with the assistance of the Indian government.

Modi is also expected to join a Yoga program in Colombo during his visit. (Xinhua)

Security Council Asks Yemeni Parties to Avoid Security Vacuums

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council on Thursday asked all Yemeni parties to avoid any security vacuums that can be exploited by terrorists or other violent groups.

In a press statement, the 15-nation council voiced its strong concern about intensified terrorist attacks in Yemen, while stressing that a political solution to the country's crisis is essential to address the threat of terrorism.

In late August, a suicide bombing that targeted an army recruiting compound in Yemen's southern port city of Aden left at least 65 people dead



and 55 injured. The Islamic State has claimed responsibility.

UN Special Envoy for Yemen Ismail Ould Cheikh Ahmed warned the Security Council that the current military escalation in Yemen is fueling the expansion of terrorist

groups. Ever since the UN-sponsored peace talks between Yemeni rival factions collapsed last month, fighting escalated inside Yemen and on the northern borders with Saudi Arabia.

In this regard, the Security Council... (More on P4)...(22)

China, Britain Vow to Deepen Military Exchanges, Mutual Trust

LONDON - China and Britain on Thursday pledged to enhance their exchanges and mutual trust in military to tap their huge cooperation potential.

The latest development came as visiting Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan met with British Secretary of State for Defense Michael Fallon on the sidelines of the ongoing UN peacekeeping defense ministerial meeting in London. Chang, also a Chinese state councilor, said that his country is willing to deepen mutual understanding and political trust with the new British government, expand cooperation and exchanges in vari-

ous areas and levels so as to make new progress in the bilateral strategy coordination and pragmatic cooperation. Chang's remarks came as China and Britain reaffirmed their commitments to the "golden era" in the bilateral relationship when the leaders of the two countries met in Hangzhou during the G20 summit a few days ago. The minister said that the military relations between the two nations had witnessed substantial progress. He called on the two sides to maintain the momentum of high-level military exchanges and... (More on P4)...(23)

Kerry, Lavrov Hold Syria Talks in Geneva

GENEVA - U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov kicked off the talks on Syria on Friday morning, the U.S. Mission in Geneva quoted a State Department source as saying.

Discussions are taking place in the same luxurious lakeside hotel as two weeks ago when the two officials reached "clarity" on the way forward in enhancing cooperation between both countries.

According to a statement attribute to U.S. State Department spokesperson



John Kirby, "discussion follows recent conversations on Syria and will focus on reducing violence, expanding humanitarian

assistance for the Syrian people, and moving towards a political solution needed to end the civil war." An agreement between both countries is hoped to give impetus to the intra-Syrian peace talks which have been on hold since April. (Xinhua)

Hangzhou Summit Charts Course for Better G20 and World

HANGZHOU - The G20 Hangzhou summit, chaired by Chinese President Xi Jinping, ended with broad consensus on stronger global economic governance, a clearer future course for the G20 as well as fresh impetus and new direction for the world.

The Hangzhou Consensus underpins China's shifting role as it transforms from a player in global affairs to a leader of the global agenda.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) recently warned of a low growth

trap, lamenting that the world economy has not been so weak for so long since the early 1990s.

As developed nations' prescription to the current ills seems ineffective, China shared its solution with the world.

From its own experience, China said there is no excuse to delay structural reforms. Half-baked or half-hearted measures will not address the root cause of the economic languor.



China's resolve on structural reform was echoed by G20 members, who called for the combination of monetary easing with fiscal and structural reform, and reform based on the conditions of each individual economy. (Xinhua)

China Firmly Opposes DPRK Nuclear Test

BEIJING - China's foreign ministry issued a statement on Friday, expressing firm opposition to the nuclear test by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). "Today the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, regardless of universal opposition from the international community, conducted another nuclear test, to which the Chinese government is firmly opposed," said the statement.

The DPRK state-run tel-

evision reported earlier Friday that the country has conducted a nuclear warhead explosion test. It is Pyongyang's fifth nuclear test, and comes eight months after the last one.

"We strongly urge the DPRK side to honor the commitment to denuclearization, abide by the relevant UN security council resolutions and halt any moves that could aggravate the situations," according to the statement. (Xinhua)

ASEAN to Strengthen Community Building Efforts, Enhance Cooperation with China

VIENTIANE - The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) concluded its 28th and 29th Summits and related leaders' meeting here on Thursday, with pledges to strengthen the regional bloc's internal cooperation as well as external coordination with partners. ASEAN's cooperation with its most active partner China took center stage at a series of meetings. The two sides agreed to add people-to-people exchanges as a new pillar for cooperation, and effectively implement

the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea (DOC). MAPPING OUT BLUEPRINT FOR COMMUNITY BUILDING ASEAN leaders gathered here from Tuesday to Thursday for their 28th and 29th Summits with the theme "Turning Vision into Reality for a Dynamic ASEAN Community." Through constructive and cordial discussions, they mapped out the blueprint for the future development for a politically cohesive, ... (More on P4)...(24)

Nieghbor News

China-U.S. Tourism Sees Decade of Progress: Official

YINCHUAN - Tourism between China and the United States has seen significant growth over the past decade, an official said at an ongoing tourism forum in northwest China. The combined number of tourists from China traveling to the United States and vice versa has exceeded 30 million since the two countries launched a high-level tourism dialogue mechanism in 2007, Li Jinzao, head of the China National Tourism Administration, said at the China-U.S. Tourism Leadership Summit in Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region on Friday. Li said the mechanism had

enhanced communication and mutual understanding between the people of the two countries and boosted economic growth. China and the United States are important tourism sources for each other. Since Chinese group tours to the United States began in June 2008, tourism in both countries have posted growth. Last year, about 4.75 million trips have been made between China and the United States, with more than 2 million U.S. tourists coming to China. This year, trips between the two countries are expected to exceed 5 million, a record high. (Xinhua)

Sharif Approves Acquisition of Land for Diامر-Bhasha Dam

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif during a cabinet meeting on Friday approved land acquisition for the Diامر-Bhasha dam, Radio Pakistan reported.

The Diامر-Bhasha dam, a 272-metre-high dam with the capacity to generate 4,500MW of electricity per day, has been 30 years in the making. In 2008, construction on the dam was meant to be complete by 2016.

The dam is capable of storing 8.1 MAF of wa-

ter and may also support other existing projects and enhance the life of Tarbela dam by 35 years.

The government had attempted to complete acquisition for the multi-billion dollar project before June this year, but was unsuccessful.

The Rangers had earlier been deployed in Diامر district as a security measure to acquire land for the project as local residents were reportedly reluctant to leave the area.

(Monitoring Desk)

Don't Sow Division amongst Muslims, Iran Tells Bahrain

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman has censured the Bahraini foreign minister for his recent allegations against the Islamic Republic, calling on the top diplomat to stay away from approaches that seek to "sow division" among the Muslim ummah.

On Thursday night, Bahram Qassemi advised Khalid bin Ahmed Al Khalifah to deal with his own country's "internal problems instead of being narrow-minded and adopting repetitious stances ordered and indoctrinated by those who have gone astray in the region."

The senior Iranian official also called on the Bahraini foreign minister "to avoid making remarks about issues that relate to Muslims' most significant religious ritual without referring

to the massacre of innocent Muslims during the Mina tragedy" last year.

Speaking at the 146th ordinary session of the Arab League Council in the Egyptian capital city of Cairo on Thursday, Khalifah (seen below) accused Iran of trying to "politicize" this year's Hajj.

At least 465 Iranian pilgrims lost their lives during the stampede, which occurred after two large masses of pilgrims converged at a crossroads in Mina near the holy city of Mecca during the rituals on September 24, 2015. Riyadh has refused to update the death toll of 770 it released days after the incident, but Iran, which had the largest number of deaths among foreign nationals, has put the death toll at about 4,700. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan, Luxembourg Considering Co-Op Prospects

ASHGABAT - Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov has received Jean Asselborn, Luxembourg's minister of foreign and European affairs, the Turkmen government said in a message. According to the message, the sides exchanged views on the opportunities of expanding cooperation in such areas as transport, industry, agriculture, as well as in the banking and financial sector. "Luxembourg's government appreciates the relations with Turk-

menistan, having great prestige in the world," Asselborn added. According to the message, Asselborn stressed that the partnership is being successfully developed both in bilateral and multilateral formats - as part of the international organizations, including the UN and the EU. Luxembourg's minister praised Turkmenistan's peacemaking initiatives aimed at developing the common approaches to the problems of the modern world, the message said. (Trend)