

# Russia Sees Promotion of Progress, Prosperity for all

UNITED NATIONS- Russia on Sunday said that it is the central task of the United Nations to promote socio-economic progress and prosperity for all countries, warning that "unilateral coercive measures" are not conducive to sustainable development in the world at large. The statement came as Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov took the floor at the UN Summit for the Adoption of the Post-2015 Development Agenda. "Promotion of socio-economic progress and prosperity of all countries and people is the core mission of our Organization," Lavrov said. "Forg-



ing a global partnership for development has been one of the most significant

achievement of the UN that we all can rightly be proud of." At the UN sum-

mit, world leaders on Friday adopted the Post-2015 Development Agenda,

also known as the Sustainable Development Agenda, a set of 17 goals in all

fields to end extreme poverty, promote sustainable development from 2015 to 2030. "Russia welcomes the adoption of the new 2030 Agenda for Development," he said. "We stand ready to actively support its successful implementation at all levels." The new development agenda is to replace the Millennium Development Goals, a set of eight anti-poverty targets to be reached by the end of 2015. "The impressive success in the achievement of the MDGs is by no means the reason for complacency," he said. "Addressing global ... (More on P4)...(22)

## New Zealand Defense Chief to Discuss Security at Regional Conference



WELLINGTON - New Zealand's top military officer will be discussing security issues at the annual Pacific Chiefs of Defense Force Conference (PACCHODs) in Hawaii this week. "This is a good opportunity to discuss common security issues with counterparts from Asia-Pacific nations," Chief of Defence Force, Lieutenant General Tim Keat-

ing said in a statement Monday. "About 30 countries from the Asia Pacific region have been invited to attend," he said. "The conference includes symposiums on a variety of topics, including counter-terrorism. I will also take the opportunity to hold bilateral talks with counterparts from 12 countries." The conference runs from Sept. 28 to 30. (Xinhua)

## Obama Commits U.S. to New Development Goals at UN Summit

UNITED NATIONS - U.S. President Barack Obama on Sunday committed the U.S. to achieving global development goals at a United Nations summit, vowing to reduce inequality and create opportunities around the world. "In doing so, we recognize that our most basic bond - our common humanity - compels us to act," Obama said at the three-day Sustainable Development Summit that ended here at the UN Headquarters in New York Sunday. On Friday, world leaders adopted at the summit the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which includes a set of 17 Sustain-

able Development Goals to end poverty, fight inequality and injustice, and tackle climate change by 2030. Obama said the world suffers no illusions of the challenges ahead in achieving the goals, but "we understand this is something that we must commit ourselves to." In his defense of the 15-year plan, Obama said some 800 million people are scraping by on less than 1.25 U.S. dollars a day and billions of people are at risk of dying from preventable diseases. In his address, the U.S. President also warned against bad governance and inequality, among



others, which threaten the achievement of the ambitious goals. "Governments have to embrace transparency and open government and rule of law," Obama said, calling for combating corruption, illicit finance and promoting civil society

groups. Obama also urged some countries to abandon old attitudes, especially those that deny rights and opportunity to women. "One of the best indicators of whether a country will succeed is how it treats its women," Obama said. (Xinhua)

## UNEP Chief Vies for Top Seat at UN Refugee Agency

NAIROBI - The Executive Director of United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) Achim Steiner has formally declared his intention to vie for the top seat at the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR). In a statement released to the media on Monday, Steiner revealed he had already submitted his credentials to the UN Secretary General Ban-Ki Moon. "I

can confirm I have submitted my candidacy to the Secretary General for the post of UN High Commissioner for Refugees. I also acknowledge with gratitude that my candidacy has been endorsed by the German government," Steiner remarked. Among other competitors for the UNHCR top position currently are Denmark former Prime Minister Helle

Thorning-Schmidt and Italian diplomat Filippo Grandi, a former leader of UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA). The UN General Assembly in 2006 approved the nomination of Achim Steiner as the UNEP Executive Director to serve for a four-year term. Later in 2010, Steiner's helm at the UN environmental body was ex-

tended up to June 2016. As a German national, Steiner has worked in a number of global bodies that deals with conservation and water resources management. He has a wealth of experience in global environmental policy and sustainable development. "Having worked my whole life in international development, policy and diplomacy, (Xinhua)

## Russia Seizes Initiative in Syria

UNITED NATIONS - Russia appeared to seize the initiative in international efforts to end the conflict in Syria on Sunday as Washington scrambled to devise a new strategy for the war-ravaged country and France sent warplanes to bomb Islamic State targets. As leaders gathered in New York at the United Nations General Assembly, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry discussed Syr-

ia with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov. He said that while it was vital to coordinate efforts against Islamic State militants this was not yet happening. "I think we have concerns about how we are going to go forward," Kerry told reporters. U.S. officials said Kerry was working on a new political initiative in New York that would include Russia and key regional powers. A... (More on P4)...(23)

## Iran Official Denies Superjet Deal with Russia



TEHRAN - An Iranian official has denied reports that the country had signed contracts to buy Superjet 100 passenger aircraft from Russia. The rebuttal by head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) Ali Abedzadeh came after a Russian news agency alleged that Iran had signed contracts worth \$21 billion to buy satellite equipment and aircraft from Russia.

"Any contract for the purchase of aircraft has to be signed between the airline as the operator and the manufacturing company and only aviation companies are responsible for purchase or lease of aircraft," Abedzadeh said.

Iran's Vice President for science and technology Sorena Sattari praised the 100-seat Superjet as an "extraordinary" aircraft during his tour of the MAKS-2015 air show in Russia last month along with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

On Saturday, Sputnik said the contracts for purchase of satellite-related equipment as well as the Superjet aircraft had been signed at the air show.

Abedzadeh said, "All aircraft in the world are designed and built in such a way to be operational. However, not all of them can be necessarily operated in any country due to airport limitations. (PressTV)

## German President Warns of Limits to Number of Refugees

BERLIN - Germany's president has warned that there are limits to how many refugees his country can absorb as it prepares for as many as 800,000 arrivals this year, showing growing concern even at the highest level over how to look after so many newcomers. "We want to help. We have a big heart. However, there is a limit to what we can do," President Joachim Gauck, a former rights activist in communist East Germany, said in a speech on Sunday evening. "Our ability to take in people is limited, although we

don't know yet where those limits are," he added. The comments from the head of state, who has a largely ceremonial role but whose words carry moral authority, appeared to be striking a more cautious tone than Chancellor Angela Merkel who has said Germany can cope with the record influx. The government declined to respond directly to Gauck's comments, reflecting political convention, but defended its handling of the situation. "The German government and the chancellor are convinced that protection has to be given to those who need it, whether they are persecuted for political ... (More on P4)...(24)

## Ban Opens UN Assembly with Call for Action on Europe's Migrant Crisis

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Monday called on Europe to do more to confront the migration crisis, in his opening address to the General Assembly meeting of world leaders. "I urge Europe to do more," Ban told the 193-nation assembly. Europe's worst migration crisis since World War II looms large over this year's gathering of world leaders as international efforts to end the war in Syria are in disarray. "We

should not be building fences or walls, but above all we must look at root causes, in countries of origin," said Ban. More than four million people have been driven from the homes in the four-year war in Syria, with hundreds of thousands heading to Europe, pouring out of overcrowded refugee camps in Jordan and Turkey. Ban is due to host a meeting on Wednesday on the sidelines of General Assembly on the migration crisis to agree on a global response as the European Union struggles ... (More on P4)...(25)

## China, New Zealand Pledge more Military Cooperation



BEIJING - Senior defense officials from China and New Zealand pledged more cooperation between their militaries on Monday. In his meeting with New Zealand's Defense Minister Gerry Brownlee, Fan Changlong, vice chairman of China's Central Military Commission, said the two countries enjoy strong ties that act as a case study of win-win cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. At present, the two militaries are implementing the consensus reached by their leaders, so as to deepen military cooperation to a new level, Fan said. Brownlee said he has witnessed China's development and its contribution to world peace and stability. New Zealand stands ready to make joint efforts with China to enhance military communication and cooperation, he said. Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan also held talks with Brownlee on Monday afternoon, reaching similar consensus. Chang said two militaries have frequent high-level visits, smooth strategic communication and more pragmatic cooperation in recent years. Chang said China is willing to work with New Zealand to promote military-to-military ties. Brownlee said New Zealand attaches importance to the ties with China, and there are fruitful achievements in the fields of politics, economy, military and people-people exchanges in recent years. (Xinhua)

## Neighbour News

### Iran's President to Cut Short New York Visit

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will cut short his visit to New York and return home to attend the funeral of the Iranian victims of the recent crush in Saudi Arabia. The president, who is in New York to take part in the 70th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), is to leave for the Iranian capital, Tehran, on Monday, said Parviz Esmaili, the president's deputy chief of staff. President Rouhani will deliver a speech at the UNGA before returning home. The latest figures released by Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization suggest that at least 169

Iranian pilgrims lost their lives in the crush during the Hajj rituals in Mina near the Saudi city of Mecca on September 24. Forty-six Iranians are currently hospitalized and 298 others are still unaccounted for, according to head of the organization Sa'eed Ohadi. The Saudi Health Ministry puts the total death toll from the incident at nearly 770. However, Iran's Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization says some 2,000 pilgrims lost their lives in the tragedy. The first batch of the bodies of the Iranian pilgrims who lost their lives in the Mina crush is to be transferred to Iran on Tuesday, said Esmaili. (PressTV)

### Kerry Meets Nawaz, Lauds Anti-Terror Efforts

UNITED NATIONS - US Secretary of State John Kerry in his meeting with Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif appreciated Pakistan's counter terrorism efforts and the success of anti-terror operation. Meeting on the sidelines of 70th session of United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), Secretary Kerry expressed grief and sorrow over the recent terrorist attack on Pakistan Air force (PAF) camp in Badaber. While discussing bilateral cooperation on a wide range of issues, he con-

veyed to Nawaz that US President Barack Obama is looking forward to the premier's visit to Washington in October. The PM expressed deep concern over the Indian ceasefire violations alongside the Line of Control (LoC) and the Working Boundary (WB) while reaffirming Pakistan's commitment to resolve all issues through dialogue. Discussing the regional security situation, Kerry also lauded Pakistan's efforts for peace and reconciliation in Afghanistan. (Agencies)

### Tajikistan Attends SCO Commodity Fair in China

AVESTA - A number of Tajik organizations participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) countries commodity fair that was held in Xi'an, capital of northwest China's Shaanxi Province, from Sept. 24 to 26, Tajikistan's Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCI) said Monday. The Open Joint-Stock Company (OJSC) Barqi Tojik, Somon Energy, Closed Joint-Stock Company (CJSC) Obi Zulol, Shirin (confectionery plant), and others put on display their achievements at the fair. The SCO member states, observer states and dia-

logue partners presented their products at the three-day commodity fair, the first of this kind, which took place at the Qujiang International Conference & Exhibition Center. The fair was organized by China's Ministry of Commerce and trade departments of SCO member states. The SCO, founded in 2001, currently has six member states -- China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan, with Afghanistan, India, Iran, Mongolia and Pakistan as observers and Belarus, Turkey and Sri Lanka as dialogue partners. (Agencies)

### China Becomes First Non-EU Country to Announce Contribution to Juncker Plan



BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) on Monday said China has become the first non-EU country to announce its contribution to the continent's ambitious 315-billion-euro investment plan (352 billion U.S. dollars), or Juncker Plan. China's announcement was made at Monday's High Level Economic and Trade Dialogue in Beijing, the EU said in a press release, adding that both sides agreed to work toward closer cooperation on investment issues. The move was viewed as a further positive step for bilateral relations after the two sides agreed to enhance cooperation under the Belt and Road Initiative and the bloc's investment plan at the

17th China-EU Summit which took place here on June 29. Another outcome of the Beijing dialogue was that China and the EU agreed to set up a joint working group, including experts from China's Silk Road fund, the European Commission, and the European Investment Bank, to increase cooperation on "all aspects of investment." Besides, the Commission and the Chinese government also signed a memorandum of understanding on the EU-China connectivity platform to enhance synergies between China's Belt and Road Initiative and the EU's connectivity initiatives. (Xinhua)