# World



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### briefly

# Partnership with China 'benefits Africa'

#### GERMANY **Tibetologists**

exchange views Tibetologists from China shared views on research, protection and development of Tibetan culture with their German counterparts on Thursday.

Changngopa Tseyang, viceprincipal of Tibet University, said exchanges between different cultures was necessary and Tibet University had cooperated with universities and colleges in Germany, the United States, Britain and Norway.

She said young students from more than 20 countries were studying Tibetan literature and Tibetology at Tibet University. They are learning language, culture, drama and painting among other subjects. After studying for two or three years, some foreign students have been able to write papers in Tibetan

#### PAKISTAN Law protecting PM struck down

Pakistani state TV says the country's Supreme Court has struck down a law recently passed by parliament and aimed at protecting the prime minister from being charged with contempt of court.

The report says the court on Friday declared the law unconstitutional Pakistan's parliament

passed the law in July after the court convicted former prime minister Yousuf Raza Gilani of contempt and ousted him from office for failing to reopen an old corruption case against President Asif Ali Zardari.

The aim of the law was to prevent the new premier, Raja Pervaiz Ashraf, from suffering the same fate.

#### UNITED NATIONS More support needed for Mali

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees called on the international community to do more to tackle the humanitarian crisis in Mali on Friday.

#### **By ZHANG HAIZHOU** in London

and CHENG GUANGJIN in Beijing

Partnership between China and African countries will benefit Africa's economic development, a South African official said as the US Secretary of State made what appeared to be veiled attacks on China while visiting the continent.

Hillary Clinton arrived in Senegal on Wednesday, on the first stop of an 11-day tour of Africa. It is the highest-level visit to the continent by a US official since June, when Washington issued a strategy for Africa that calls for greater access to investment between the United States and African countries.

Clinton told a university audience that the US was committed to "a model of sustainable partnership that adds value, rather than extracts it" from Africa.

Unlike other countries, the United States "will stand up for democracy and universal human rights even when it might be easier to look the other way and keep the resources flowing," she said.

Although Clinton did not mention any country by name, her remarks were widely interpreted as a swipe at China, which eclipsed the US as Africa's biggest trading partner three years ago, reported the Guardian, a London-based newspaper. Analysts view Clinton's visit as

an attempt to compete with Sino-African cooperation, which has been growing rapidly in recent years despite continuing criticism from Western countries, which say China is practicing neocolonialism in Africa. Malusi Gigaba, South Africa's

minister of public enterprises, believes a strong partnership between China and his country will "achieve a great deal" for

Africa's economic development.

"Africa has a lot of potential for investment in energy, rail, road and infrastructure. We need about \$93 billion dollars to address our infrastructure needs on the African continent," Gigaba told China Daily in a recent interview in London.

Gigaba's views came a few days after President Hu Jintao announced in Beijing that China will provide \$20 billion in loans to help African countries develop infrastructure, agriculture, manufacturing, and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Africa needs infrastructure that connects the countries on its own continent, as well as with the world, in order to boost trade within the continent and with other emerging markets, according to Gigaba.

"South Africa is a gateway into Africa," he said. "Working in partnership with China, with Chinese State-owned enterprises as well as Chinese businesses in general, we can achieve a great deal for Africa economically."

In 2011, China's non-financial direct investment in Africa increased 58.9 percent year-onyear to \$1.7 billion, according to the Ministry of Commerce. By the end of 2011, Chinese

investment in Africa reached \$14.7 billion, up 60 percent compared with 2009.

"As China strengthens its ties with Africa and trade keeps expanding, Chinese enterprises will increase their investment in Africa in the near future," said Wang Cheng'an, executive vicepresident and secretary-general of the Professional Committee of Competition Policy and Law under the China Society for World Trade Organization Studies.

Chinese investment in Africa has boosted economic development and local tax revenue and employment. Moreover, China's

direct investment in Africa will increase its exports of machinery and technology to Africa, Wang said.

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Cheng Tao, an expert on African studies at China Foundation for International Studies, said China has been treating African countries equally and offering aid without additional conditions.

"China respects African countries' sovereignty and never intervenes in their internal affairs, which forms a sharp contrast with the colonialism that has been practiced by Western countries," Cheng said.

In addition to China and South Africa, Gigaba suggested there should be more investment within the BRICS economies - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa — to "change the world's economic balance of power".

"They've got to play the role to increase investment because if we can succeed to increase

investments among ourselves and in our different regions, we will establish emerging markets as a powerful economic force in the world," Gigaba said.

"Even now, the economic balance is changing, but we need to do more to change it even further," he added.

The role of BRICS economies in the global economic landscape has been on the rise in recent years, as major developed economies struggle to emerge from economic turmoil.

Acknowledging the framework's focus on business, trade and investment, Gigaba said he sees "the BRICS in the future developing into a strong political voice in the global environment", even though it's "not a priority" for now.

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## Hope remains for Syria despite Annan's resignation

#### By ZHAO SHENGNAN in

Beijing and ZHANG YUWEI at the United Nations

Analysts said hope for a political resolution to the Syrian crisis remains despite Kofi Annan's resignation on Thursday as the UN-Arab League Joint Special Envoy for Syria.

The former UN secretarygeneral announced on Thursday his decision to quit at the end of the month, saying "the increasing militarization on the ground (in Syria) and the clear lack of unity in the Security Council have fundamentally changed the circumstances for the effective exercise" of his role. China expressed regret over Annan's resignation, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said in a statement.



#### REACTION

#### **RUSSIA**

1. Russian President Vladimir Putin

Annan's resignation is regrettable, he said. Putin called the situation in Syria a "tragedy" and hoped that "the international community's efforts aimed at ending the violence will continue".

#### 2. Vitaly Churkin, Russia's ambassador to the UN

One of the reasons that Annan's diplomatic efforts have gone through many difficulties is that his appeal for no further militarization of the Syrian conflicts was not really heeded by some influential countries in the international community, he said.

#### **EUROPEAN UNION**

**Catherine Ashton. EU** foreign policy chief

"The EU continues to support the efforts of the UN and the Arab League and calls for the early appointment of a successor to carry on Mr Annan's work toward a peaceful political transition in Syria.

Completing a visit to Burkina Faso, Antonio Guterres appealed to the international community to support Malian refugees and their host countries and to make all efforts for a political solution to the crisis.

He told reporters that the number of refugees from Mali has reached 260,000, and some 200,000 have been internally displaced.

#### UNITED STATES **Break-in shuts US nuclear site**

The US government's only facility for handling, process ing and storing weaponsgrade uranium has been temporarily shut after antinuclear activists, including an 82-year-old nun, breached security fences, government officials said on Thursday.

WSI Oak Ridge, the contractor responsible for protecting the facility at Oak Ridge, Tennessee, is owned by the international security firm G4S, which was at the center of a dispute over security at the London Olympic Games.

Officials said the facility was shut down on Wednesday at least until next week after three activists cut through perimeter fences to reach the outer wall of a building where highly enriched uranium, a key nuclear bomb component, is stored.

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China remains open to any proposal that can help politically solve the Syrian issue and supports the United Nations role in achieving the resolution, Hong said.

Li Baodong, China's permanent representative to the UN, also voiced support for Annan's meditation efforts and the full implementation of his six-point plan at Security Council meetings.

Annan's six-point peace plan to promote a peaceful solution to the Syrian crisis is endorsed by the Security Council, but violence has intensified in some parts of the country.

UN military observers earlier confirmed that Syrian opposition groups are using heavy weapons in their fight against the government.

The resignation symbolizes the deep divisions in the international community over a crisis that UN officials now said has claimed more than 20,000 lives, said the Christian Science Monitor.

Annan said that the bloodshed in Syria continues "most of all because of the Syrian govern-

UN-Arab League mediator Kofi Annan addresses a news conference at the United Nations in Geneva on Thursday, Annan is stepping down as mediator in the 17-month-old Syria conflict at the end of the month, UN chief Ban Ki-moon said in a statement.

ment's intransigence and continuing refusal to implement the six-point plan and also because of the escalating military campaign of the opposition".

Syria's Foreign Ministry reiterated the country's commitment to Annan's peace plan, stressing the leadership's belief in national dialogue as the sole way to resolve the current crisis

without any foreign intervention The possibility of a political resolution still remains since Damascus still controls the general situation, which has been

acknowledged by some opposition parties, said An Huihou, former Chinese ambassador to Egypt, Tunisia, Lebanon and Algeria.

After Annan's resignation, officials from Russia, the United States, the European Union and Britain also expressed continued commitment to the peace plan.

"Although the possibility of

inclusive political dialogue has diminished, the West's support for the plan still leaves hope for a peaceful resolution to the Syrian crisis," said Qu Xing, head of the China Institute of International Studies.

"However, differences over details in the peace plan exist among the related parties," Qu added. "The West still wants the removal of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad as a precondition for political dialogue, while China insists the future of Syria should be decided by Syrians."

UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon on Thursday said he was consulting with the League of Arab States about the "prompt appointment of a successor (to Annan) who can carry on this crucial peacemaking effort".

According to an ABC news report, John Bolton, former US ambassador to the UN, does not share Ban's optimism, saying that the position no longer has a role to play and would not be a career-enhancing move for anyone.

envoy as qualified as Annan, said An. "But the final resolution of the Syrian issue doesn't depend on the choice of envoy, but on joint efforts from international community, including the West changing its

It is not easy to find another

**DENIS BALIBOUSE / REUTERS** 

"The six-point plan remains the best hope for the people of Syria, and any further militarization of the conflict by any of the parties can only bring greater suffering to Syria, its citizens, and the region as a whole.

#### UNITED STATES

#### 1. US President Barack Obama

Obama said he is "grateful" for Annan's willingness to serve as the UN-Arab League joint envoy and for his efforts to achieve peace and a peaceful transition in Syria.

#### 2. US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton

The US appreciates Annan's services and remains committed to an "effective and swift" political transition in Syria as envisioned by Annan, she said.

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Kim stresses importance of relationship with Beijing

#### By WANG CHENYAN

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Pyongyang attaches the greatest importance to its diplomatic ties with Beijing as it implements "economic improvement", experts said following a meeting between the top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and a visiting senior Chinese official.

DPRK leader Kim Jong-un met with Wang Jiarui, head of the International Department

of Central Committee of the Communist Party of China, on Thursday to discuss strengthening relations between the two countries, according to a report

on Thursday by Xinhua News Agency Kim said Pyongyang will cooperate with Beijing to elevate their friendship, which was established and nurtured by pre-

vious leaders. China views its relationship with the DPRK from a strategic and long-term perspective

and will not waver in its effort to maintain friendly cooperation, Wang replied.

Wang Junsheng, an expert of East Asian studies at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said Kim is now shifting his attention to diplomacy by highlighting the strength of DPRK-China relations.

"Ties with Beijing are Pyongyang's top diplomatic priority," Wang said.

During their meeting, Kim said that developing the DPRK's

economy and improving the people's livelihood was the government's goal.

'The DPRK has been facing economic difficulties for many years. It needs to balance economic reform with stability. I think after taking office, Kim is sending an obvious signal that he wants to change, be approachable and turn his attention to his people's livelihood, " Wang said.

Xinhua contributed to this story.

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