

Life
Middle class holds key to deepening trust between China and West

> Page 9



Prime
Ministry says nation honors South China Sea commitments

> Page 2

Business
Number of Chinese millionaires rises by 12 percent

> Page 13

WEEKEND
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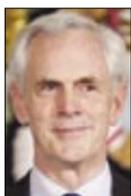
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Bryson may boost Sino-US energy ties

Experts believe ex-utility executive a wise choice as commerce secretary

By ARIEL TUNG AND MENG JING
CHINA DAILY



John Bryson is nominee for US commerce secretary.

founder of the Natural Resources Defense Council, a national and international environmental group.

It is this expertise in the clean energy sector that Obama noted when he nominated Bryson. Obama added that the development of clean and renewable energy will help improve US export competitiveness.

Lefton said China-US collaboration on clean energy represents a win-win for the two countries.

“There is a great relationship that has already been developed on clean energy, and we hope it will continue to develop. It’s really important to watch how these two countries will work together,” Lefton said.

That relationship was jump-started by a 2009 meeting between Obama and President Hu Jintao. The two signed a joint statement that recognized the importance for both economies to transition to green and low-carbon economies, which in turn would create jobs.

Then this January, the two leaders coordinated numerous deals worth more than \$45 billion between US and Chinese energy companies.

Since last September, Bryson has been chairman of BrightSource Energy Inc in Northern California. The company makes solar power plants and is seeking to use solar-thermal technology to generate vast amounts of power. Early in his career, Bryson was the co-

SEE “ENERGY” PAGE 2



WATER FALL

PHOTO BY YANG DI / FOR CHINA DAILY

A flash flood, caused by torrential rain, pours into Taoranting subway station in Beijing on Thursday. The downpour, the heaviest this summer, disrupted traffic and forced flight cancellations. See story on page 3.

Hopes are high for responsible US troops withdrawal

By CHEN WEIHUA AND QIN JIZE
CHINA DAILY

NEW YORK / BEIJING — One day after United States President Barack Obama announced the start of troop withdrawals from Afghanistan, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said China hoped the US would act responsibly during the withdrawal and help Afghanistan enhance its security capability.

“It has been China’s consistent stance that the independence and sovereignty of Afghanistan should be respected. We have noted President Obama’s withdrawal plan and hope the US safeguards a peaceful and stable transition,” Hong said at a regular news briefing on Thursday.

Obama said he would pull 10,000 troops from Afghanistan by the end of this year, followed by about 23,000 more by the end of next summer and continue with a steady withdrawal of remaining troops thereafter.

The withdrawal, Obama said, signals the beginning of the end of the war that began shortly after Sept 11, 2001. The US and its allies have agreed to turn over security responsibility to the Afghans by 2014.

Ye Hailin, a researcher at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said the future of US-Afghan ties is still hard to predict as there are so many unknown factors in the withdrawal plan.

“How many soldiers are they going to withdraw, and can the plan be implemented as scheduled, are questions that really matter,” Ye said.

Li Qinggong, deputy secretary of the China Council for National Security Policy Studies, believes Obama’s decision is aimed at appeasing anti-war sentiment at the core of his base and to increase his chances in next year’s presidential election.

“The political significance has outweighed the military significance,” Li said.



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In this issue

| | |
|---------------|-------|
| PRIME..... | 2-3 |
| CHINA | 4-6 |
| FOCUS | 7 |
| LIFE..... | 8-9 |
| VIEW | 11-12 |
| BUSINESS..... | 13-16 |

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Unraveling mysteries behind Nixon’s 1972 visit

Kissinger’s new book offers insights on how the ice was broken in Sino-US relations, reports **Li Xing** in Washington.

Henry Kissinger is scheduled to arrive in Beijing on Friday for a series of public and private meetings as a guest of the Chinese People’s Institute of Foreign Affairs.

He will discuss with his hosts his latest book, *On China*, which has been touted in the Chinese media and much coveted among the Chinese.

As he summarized after he

received a lifetime achievement award from the Asia Society in Washington last week, he attempted to share with the readers his historic analysis of how the Chinese and Americans handle their problems and how “this translated itself into the actual interaction” between the United States and China.

The book “provides us with his insightful views on Sino-US relations over the past 40 years,

including his meetings with four generations of Chinese leaders”, Zhang Yesui, China’s ambassador to the US, said during the Asia Society event.

A highlight of the trip will be his meeting with a celebrated party of old friends — and children of his old friends — to recall the memorable 48 hours he spent in Beijing in July 1971 on his secret mission to break the ice in China-US relations.



SONG QIAO / FOR CHINA DAILY
Henry Kissinger visits the Johns Hopkins University-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies in Nanjing on June 23, 2007.

SEE “KISSINGER” PAGE 7