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Metro Beijing appears in the English edition of the Global Times here in Beijing, Monday to Friday.




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► **Striking a pose**



British Prime Minister David Cameron poses for pictures on the Giant's Causeway in County Antrim, during a visit to Northern Ireland, on Wednesday. Photo: AFP

► **US report 'encourages terrorist activities' in Northwest China**

Xinjiang denies suppressing Islam

By Yan Shuang and Liang Chen

Officials and experts raised strong objections on Thursday to a new US report that criticized China's counterterrorism efforts and accused the Chinese government of suppressing Uyghurs under the pretext of fighting against terrorism.

The US is in no position to make these groundless accusations, which are based on a double standard and the US' political needs and interests, said experts and an official with the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region yesterday.

The annual Country Reports on Terrorism 2011, issued by the US Department of State Tuesday, alleged that last year the Chinese government "characterized Uyghur discontent, peaceful political activism, and some forms of religious observance as terrorist activity."

Hou Hanmin, spokesperson of the Xinjiang government, said the US is using a double standard to assess China's

efforts in fighting terrorism and extremism that have been threatening regional security and residents' safety.

"We are only cracking down on those who conduct terrorist activities, not the Uyghur people," Hou told the Global Times.

According to a local me-

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Clinton targets China during Africa tour

By Liu Linlin

US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton Wednesday promised support for democracy and human rights in Africa while criticizing "other countries" for eyeing only resources and profit, an accusation that has often

been leveled at China.

On the first leg of her 11-day whirlwind tour around the continent in Senegal, Clinton, speaking to university students, lawmakers and diplomats in the capital Dakar, challenged Africa's elite to fully respect human rights and warned of

the consequences of rampant abuse, corruption and intolerance that breed contempt and contribute to instability, according to AP.

"If anyone doubts whether democracy can flourish in African soil,

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