

N. Korea Behavior 'Can't Continue': McMaster

WASHINGTON - An international consensus that includes China has now emerged that North Korea's "threatening behavior" cannot go on, the US national security adviser said Sunday.

Speaking after North Korea's latest -- and apparently failed -- missile test, H.R. McMaster said, "I think there's an international consensus now, including -- including the Chinese and the Chinese leadership -- that this is a situation that just can't continue."

Speaking from Afghanistan on ABC, he made a point of stating several times that China -- North Korea's key



ally -- is now concerned about the reclusive communist state's behavior.

McMaster said President Donald Trump has made clear he will not allow the nuclear-armed Pyongyang regime to put the US and its regional allies under threat. The consensus including China is "that this problem is coming to a head. And so it's time for us to undertake all actions we can, short of a military option, to try to resolve this peacefully," McMaster said.

Trump turned to Twitter over the weekend to underscore the key importance of cooperation with China on the Korean problem. (AFP)

North Korean Test Missile 'Fizzles' Hours before Pence Arrives in South

SEOUL/PYONGYANG - A North Korean missile "blew up almost immediately" on its test launch on Sunday, the U.S. Pacific Command said, hours before U.S. Vice President Mike Pence landed in South Korea for talks on the North's increasingly defiant arms program.

The failed launch from North Korea's east coast, ignoring repeated admonitions from major ally China, came a day after North Korea held a grand military parade in its capital,

marking the birth anniversary of the state founder, displaying what appeared to be new long-range ballistic missiles.

U.S. President Donald Trump acknowledged China's help with the North Korean issue on Sunday, linking it to a softer line taken on China's management of its currency. "Why would I call China a currency manipulator when they are working with us on the North Korean problem? We... (More on P4)...(23)

May Says Britain Uniting Around Brexit

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May said Sunday that Britain was beginning to unite behind Brexit, 10 months after the divisive referendum that saw the country narrowly vote to leave the European Union.

"This year, after a period of intense debate over the right future for our country, there is a sense that people are coming together and uniting behind the opportunities that lie ahead," May said in her Easter message.

May backed remaining in the EU but is spearheading Britain's drive to the departure gates.

She formally notified Brussels last month of Britain's intention to leave the bloc, triggering two years of exit negotiations.

"For at heart, this country is one great union of people and nations with a proud history and a bright future," May said. "And as we face the opportunities ahead of us -- the opportunities that



stem from our decision to leave the European Union and embrace the world -- our shared interests, our shared ambitions and above all our shared values can -- and must -- bring us together." (AFP)

Senior Chinese, U.S. Officials Exchange Views on Korean Peninsula Situation

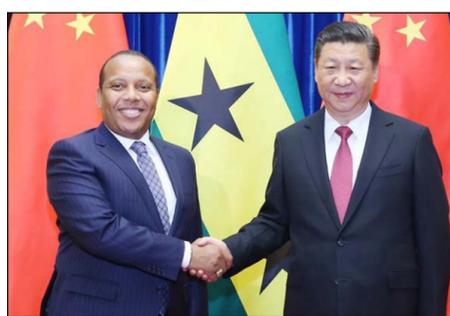
BEIJING - Chinese State Councillor Yang Jiechi and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson exchanged views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula via phone on Sunday.

The talk came after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had reportedly fired an unidentified missile early on Sunday from its eastern coastal city of Sinpo. But the missile was believed to have exploded on launch, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Yang and Tillerson also discussed the implementation of those agreements

reached by the two countries' presidents during their first meeting in the U.S. state of Florida earlier this month.

The successful meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump at the Mar-a-Lago estate has set a constructive tone, defined the direction and made a plan for the development of bilateral ties, Yang told Tillerson, noting that the two leaders also held a good phone conversation just a few days ago.

For the next stage, the two sides should make



joint efforts, in accordance with the spirit and consensus reached in the two heads of state's meeting and phone conversation, to strengthen high-level exchanges and dialogues and expand mutually beneficial cooperation, Yang said. China and the United States should manage their differences on the ... (More on P4)...(24)

Far-Right Heir Aiming to Take Down EU: Le Pen

PARIS - Marine Le Pen was a daddy's girl growing up, and she wept for joy when her father -- the bogeyman of French politics -- beat his Socialist rival for a spot in the final of the 2002 presidential election.

But while Jean-Marie Le Pen never seemed to truly covet the top job, his charismatic daughter is convinced that, come May 7, France will have its first woman president.

Over the past six years her rebranded "party of patriots" from both left and the right has gone from strength to strength, propelled by the kind of anti-globalisation, anti-estab-

lishment fury that drove Britain's vote to leave the EU and Donald Trump's election in the United States.

"Against the moneyed right and the moneyed left I am the candidate of the French people," Le Pen declared in a TV debate with four rivals last month.

Since taking over the leadership of the far-right National Front (FN) in 2011 from her father, the telegenic 48-year-old former lawyer has promoted her efforts to purge the party of the anti-Semitism and overt racism that were its hallmarks. (AFP)

Protesters Across U.S. Demand Trump Release Tax Returns

NEW YORK/CHICAGO - Thousands of protesters took to the streets across the United States Saturday to demand that President Donald Trump release his tax returns.

The crowd in New York City stretched for blocks as speakers stood next to a giant inflatable rooster, bearing Trump's golden hairdo, on a stage in Bryant Park Saturday afternoon.

Comedy writer Frank Lesser, whose tweet in January sparked the idea for the Tax March, said the participation in the nationwide marches proves



that people want to see Trump's returns.

The demonstrators left Bryant Park at about 2:30 p.m. to march to Trump Tower on Fifth Avenue,

chanting, "No more secrets, no more lies. Show your taxes, show your ties" as they walked.

"We march to demand ... (More on P4)...(25)

Turkey's Coup Probe Expands to Senior U.S. Officials

ISTANBUL - The Turkish authorities have targeted a former CIA director and other Americans in the ongoing investigation into a network accused of masterminding a failed coup last year, state-run Anadolu Agency reported on Saturday. The Chief Public Prosecutor's Office in Istanbul, in response to a criminal complaint filed by some attorneys, decided to launch a probe into 17 individuals suspected of being linked to the Gulen movement led by Fethullah Gulen, a U.S.-based preacher, Anadolu said.

The agency said among the suspects are former CIA director John Brennan, Senator Chuck Schumer from New York, Preet Bharara who served as U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York until last month, David Cohen who once worked with the ... (More on P4)...(26)

Death Toll Hits 126 in Blast Against Syrian Shiite Evacuees

DAMASCUS - The death toll of the bombing that rocked the convoy of Shiite evacuees in northern Syria rose to 126, including 80 children and women, the Syrian Observatory for Human Rights monitor group reported on Sunday.

The blast, carried out by a suicide bomber driving a booby-trapped potato truck, rocked the rebel-held Rashideen area in the countryside of Aleppo province, where buses carrying 5,000 pro-government Shiite people were waiting the reactivation of a deal designed to secure their transportation to government-controlled area in Aleppo. The deal, recently reached between the rebels and the government under the supervision of Iran, Turkey and Qatar, was designed to secure evacuation of the people from the pro-government Shiite towns of Kafraya and Foa in Idlib province toward government areas in Aleppo province.

In return, the government will allow rebels and their families to leave the rebel-held towns of Madaya and Zabadani in northern Damascus to reach Idlib province.

The evacuation started on Friday, with 5,000 Shiite people leaving Kafraya and Foa, and 2,300 rebels and their families leaving the town of Madaya as first batches.

The Shiite people reached the rebel-held town of Rashideen, while the rebels reached the government-controlled Ramouseh crossing in Aleppo. (Xinhua)

S.Korean Presidential Candidates Condemn DPRK's Missile Test

SEOUL - Major South Korean presidential candidates on Sunday condemned the failed test of a missile by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), calling for restraint on provocations.

The DPRK test-launched an unidentified missile earlier in the day, but it was believed to have exploded during the launch. It was seen as a failure, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS). The test-launch came amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, which were caused by the dispatching of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier and its accompanying warships to the peninsula... (More on P4)...(27)

Japan Lodges Protest Against DPRK's Failed Missile Test

TOKYO - The Japanese government lodged a protest with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Sunday over the test-firing of a missile by the country earlier in the day. Japan's foreign ministry said that the missile launch was a clear violation of the UN Security Council resolutions and it has communicated the protest to the DPRK through a diplomatic channel. The DPRK fired an unidentified missile at about 6:20 a.m. local time from its eastern coastal city of Sinpo, but it was believed to have exploded on launch, according to South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. Pentagon of the United States has also confirmed the DPRK's missile launch,

saying that the missile blew up almost immediately and the type of missile is still being assessed. A crisis management center at the Japanese prime minister's office said later that it has reached the same conclusion as the United States that the DPRK launched a missile but it exploded. Japan's Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida said that Japan has been trying to gather and analyze information about the test-launch but refrained from giving more details. The test-launch came amid rising tensions on the Korean Peninsula, following the dispatching of the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier and its accompanying warships to the peninsula. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

EU and China will Try to Get Globalisation Back on Track at Summit

BEIJING - Top diplomats from China and the European Union will chart out a course to maintain globalisation and offset the impact of populism and protectionism when they meet next week.

State Councillor Yang Jiechi and Frederica Mogherini -- the EU's foreign affairs representative and the vice-president of the European Commission -- will lead the 7th EU-China Strategic Dialogue in Beijing from April 18th to 20th.

It will be the first high-level exchange between these two of the world's three biggest economies since Donald Trump took office in the White House and Britain began its "Brexit" procedures to leave the EU.

The top diplomats from the two sides would discuss cooperation on global challenges like climate change as well as regional and security issues in preparation for the 19th EU-China summit in Brussels, officials from both sides said earlier. A date has not yet been set for that meeting.

Analysts said getting economic globalisation and political multilateralism back on track was the biggest common interest between China and the EU, and would be the central topic of this month's dialogue. "China and the EU need each other in many aspects in present circumstances," said Wang Yiwei, a European Studies specialist at Renmin University. (Agenceis)

Nuclear Ban Treaty: Pakistan Advised Caution

ISLAMABAD - The start of negotiations to ban nuclear weapons at the United Nations could have unseen implications for Pakistan particularly with regard to its position on Fissile Material Cut-Off Treaty (FMCT).

"The Foreign Office needs to be cautious about it; a new trend is being set up. The UN is negotiating the nuclear ban treaty. FMCT can be taken to the UN as well," an official said at a roundtable organised by the Centre for International Strategic Studies (CISS) titled "Nuclear ban treaty: debating the missing Link". The roundtable was held to discuss the start of talks at the UN on proposed treaty for outlawing nuclear weapons.

The first round of talks was held from March 27

to 31 at the UN as a result of a resolution adopted last December calling for negotiating a legally binding treaty.

Pakistan was among the 40-odd countries including other nuclear weapon states that boycotted the talks. The second round of negotiations is slated for June/July, when the draft text of the treaty would be considered.

The official expressed fears that this "dangerous precedent" could lead to FMCT being negotiated out of Conference on Disarmament (CD), which he said was the appropriate forum for such deliberations. He recalled that there were "already lots of voices" complaining about the deadlock at the CD on FMCT. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Warns Neighbors Against 'Irresponsible Policies'

TEHRAN - Iran has warned countries behind the ongoing crises in the Middle East, saying the plights they have created could one day bedevil themselves. Defense Minister Brigadier-General Hossein Dehqan made the remarks in Tehran on Saturday after meeting his Azerbaijani counterpart Colonel General Zakir Hasanov.

Iran's Defense Minister Brigadier-General Hossein Dehqan and Azeri counterpart Colonel General Zakir Hasanov are seen in Tehran, April 16, 2017. (Photo

by IRNA) Dehqan cited Takfiri groups such as Daesh, Jabhat Fateh al-Sham, and their fellow "Wahhabi-Takfiri outfits" as well as the aggressive policies of the United States, Israel, and Saudi Arabia, which target the region.

The terror organizations are influenced by Wahhabism, the official radical ideology dominating Saudi Arabia. They have been wreaking havoc in Syria and Iraq since 2014 but have also carried out attacks in Europe and the US. (Presstv)

France Urges Closer Security Ties with Uzbekistan after Militant Attacks

TASHKENT - France and Uzbekistan need to strengthen security cooperation in order to combat jihadist groups and prevent violent attacks, French Foreign Minister Jean-Marc Ayrault told Reuters on Saturday during a visit to the Central Asian nation. Suspected Islamist militants from the mainly Muslim ex-Soviet region of Central Asia have been blamed for two attacks this month: a metro bombing in Russia's second city, St. Petersburg, on April 3 and an attack in Stockholm on April 7,

where a truck rammed a crowd of people on a busy street.

The Uzbek government said this week it had informed one of its Western partners that Rakhmat Akilov, the Uzbek national suspected of being behind the Stockholm attack, was an Islamic State affiliate.

Ayrault, who met Uzbek Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov in Tashkent, said security was on the agenda, as well as economic reforms and human rights. (Reuters)