

Chinese FM Meets with U.S. Counterpart on Bilateral Ties, Nuclear Issue

UNITED NATIONS - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Friday met with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on the sidelines of a Security Council ministerial meeting on the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue. On bilateral ties, Wang said that the historical meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump at the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida was a complete success. China-U.S. relations have thus achieved a smooth transition with a good start, a positive sign that the two sides are willing to cooperate for the well-being of the two peoples and to jointly contribute to world peace, he said. Wang noted that close communication between



leaders of the two countries plays an important and leading role in the development of bilateral ties.

In this regard, the two sides need to cooperate closely to make preparations for Trump's state visit to China this year, he added.

Noting that China and the United States have established four high-level dialogue mechanisms, Wang said that the two sides should move forward to reach more consensus and manage differences well so as to ensure the healthy and stable development of bilateral ties.

For his part, Tillerson expressed gratitude to Wang for attending the ministerial meeting in New York. (Xinhua)

Russia's Lavrov Says Ready to Cooperate with U.S. on Syria: Agencies

MOSCOW - Moscow is ready to cooperate with the United States on settling the Syrian crisis, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Saturday, Russian news agencies reported. Russian authorities reiterate periodically that they stand ready to renew cooperation with Washington on Syria and, more globally, on fighting terrorism. Relations between the two countries, however, are

seen reaching another low after U.S. fired missiles at Syria to punish Moscow's ally for its suspected use of poison gas earlier in April. Russia condemned the U.S. action. Lavrov's deputy Mikhail Bogdanov also said on Saturday that Russian authorities hope that Syrian armed opposition will take part in Syria peace talks in Kazakhstan's Astana on May 3-4, Interfax reported. (Reuters)

Turkey Accession Process Ongoing but no New Negotiation Opens : EU

VALLETTA - Turkey's accession process into the EU continues but currently there is no new work ongoing to open new chapters, said EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini on Friday. The words came at the EU informal meeting of foreign ministers in Malta. Mogherini said the criteria for negotiations are very clear. If Turkey is interested in accession negotiations, it knows what it implies especially in the field of human rights, media freedom and respect of international law. It is up to Turkey to express their willingness to continue to be a candidate country, she added. The

rules are clear but a level of clarification is needed on their side. The EU foreign policy chief also said that the EU respects and recognizes the sovereign right of any country to decide its governance system, so the EU respect the results of the referendum in Turkey. However the EU expects the implementation to constitutional amendments will be done by seeking the highest degree of unity in the country, she added. She further noted that Turkish citizens are at centre of dialogue and cooperation also in relation to negotiations for accession. (Xinhua)

Key Events in U.S. President Trump's First 100 Days in Office

WASHINGTON - Saturday marks the 100th day of Donald Trump's office as the 45th president of the United States. Following are the key events in the 100 days: Jan. 20 - Trump is sworn in as president amid protests. His election reflects division in the U.S. society. Jan. 27 - Trump signs his first executive order to ban the entry into the United States by people from seven Muslim-majority countries. The order and a subsequent watered-down version of the ban is

blocked by federal judges.

Feb. 13 - Trump's National Security Advisor Michael Flynn resigns for inappropriate connections to Russia prior to Trump's inauguration.

Feb. 28 - Trump makes his first speech to a joint session of Congress, which is widely credited by pundits and U.S. media as a success. Trump is thought to be "presidential" for the first time. March 24 - Trump's first attempt to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act, or Obamacare, fails when



House Republicans decide not to present a draft bill for voting as a result of lack of support within their own party. April 7 - Trump meets with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Florida. The meeting is widely perceived as a positive engagement between the two leaders, which will create favorable conditions for the development of the bilateral ties. (Xinhua)

UN Chief Warns of Global Ramifications from War in Northeast Asia

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Friday warned that armed conflict in Northeast Asia "would have global ramifications." "We must act now to prevent conflict and achieve sustainable peace," he told an open meeting of the UN Security Council on the Korean Peninsula.

Guterres condemned "in the strongest terms" the repeated violations of the relevant Security Council resolutions by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). "The absence of commu-

nication channels with the DPRK is dangerous," Guterres said. "Armed conflict in Northeast Asia, which is home to one fifth of the world's people and gross domestic product, would have global ramifications."

"We need to avoid miscalculation and misunderstanding," he said. "We need to act now to prevent conflict and achieve sustainable peace."

He urged the DPRK to refrain from further testing, comply with the relevant Security Council resolutions, and explore the resumption of dialogue.

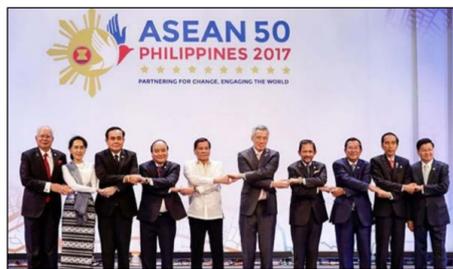


He also asked to reopen and strengthen communication channels, particularly military-to-military ones, to lower the risk of miscalculation or misunderstanding. The UN chief asked all UN member states to implement relevant Security Council resolutions. "I am particularly concerned by the possibility that efforts to offset the destabilizing activities of ... (More on P4)... (16)

ASEAN Leaders Summit Opens in Manila

MANILA - Southeast Asian leaders gathered here Saturday to exchange views on how to further strengthen and make the 50-year-old Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) relevant amid challenges confronting the globe.

"Guided by our chairmanship theme - Partnering for Change, Engaging the World - we are drawn today to reaffirm our aspiration for an ASEAN that works to effect positive change in the lives of our peoples," Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte said



at the opening of the day-long summit. Duterte will chair the 30th ASEAN summit plenary and the retreat of the 10 ASEAN leaders that are taking place Saturday. The Philippines chair the

ASEAN meeting this year which also coincides with its golden anniversary. On the political and security front, Duterte cited traditional and non-traditional security issues that test... (More on P4)... (17)

EU Unity in Brexit Talks in Britain's Interest: Tusk

BRUSSELS - The European Union will only be able to conclude talks on Britain's exit if it stays united, which means the bloc's unity is in Britain's interest, the chairman of EU summits Donald Tusk said on Saturday.

Speaking to reporters before an EU summit to approve EU guidelines for negotiations with Britain, Tusk repeated the 27 countries remaining in the EU wanted a "close and strong future relationship" with London.

"There is absolutely no question about it. But before discussing the future, we have to sort out our past. We will handle it fairly. It is the only possible way to move forward," he said, referring to Britain's financial commitments to the EU budget, made well before the decision to leave. "We need to remain united... (More on P4)... (18)

Hungary Still Defiant on US University after Brussels Summit

BUDAPEST, Hungary - The Hungarian government remained defiant Saturday over the possible closure of Budapest-based Central European University, founded by billionaire George Soros. The issue was on the agenda during Prime Minister Viktor Orban's meeting in Brussels with leaders of the European People's Party, of which his Fidesz party is a member.

The EPP was unusually direct in its criticism of Orban over CEU, a government campaign called "Let's stop Brussels" and a draft bill targeting civic groups which receive foreign funding.

EPP president Joseph Daul said that in light of objections by the European Commission and after consultations with Hungarian civic groups and the academic community "we have come to the conclusion that dialogue alone is not enough."

The EPP "will not accept that any basic freedoms are restricted or rule of law is disregarded," Daul said in a statement. "The EPP wants CEU to remain open, deadlines suspended and dialogue with the U.S. to begin."

Both Daul and EPP spokesman Siegfried Muresan posted messages on Twitter saying Orban said Hungary would comply with the commission's requests and EU laws.

While Orban said he was ready for cooperation with the commission, the EU executive, he indicated he was unwilling to eliminate new amendments to the law on higher education which could force CEU to stop operating as it currently does. (AP)

Neighbor News

Chinese FM Stresses two Directions in Dealing with Nuclear Issue on Korean Peninsula

UNITED NATIONS - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said here Friday that two basic directions must be stuck to while dealing with the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula.

"First, we must stay committed to the goal of denuclearization," Wang told a UN Security Council ministerial level meeting to discuss the nuclear activities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Denuclearization is the basic precondition for long-term peace and stability on the Peninsula and "what we must accomplish to safeguard the international nuclear non-proliferation regime," he said. "Second, all parties should comprehensively understand and fully implement DPRK-related

Security Council resolutions," he said. UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres also briefed the special meeting, which was chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, whose country holds the rotating presidency of the Security Council this month. Wang and foreign ministers or vice foreign ministers of Britain, Russia, Senegal and Japan, attended the meeting. All the 15 members of the Security Council addressed the meeting, focusing on the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula and the implementation of relevant UN resolutions.

The DPRK conducted a hydrogen bomb test and a nuclear warhead explosion test on Jan. 6 and Sept. 9 of 2016, respectively. (Xinhua)

Pakistan more Secure, Peaceful than Past: Mamnoon

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain said on Friday that today Pakistan was more secure and peaceful than the past.

"Better law and order situation has turned the country into more conducive for business and trade activities," the president told the participants of the South Asian Federation of Account-

ants (SAFA) International Conference here.

Pakistan has emerged as the most secured country for investment in the region, Mamnoon said. He said that the sacrifices of Pakistani nation against terrorism had not gone waste. We are ready to share benefits of the CPEC project with other nations, the president said. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran, Europe Business Forum Kicks Off in Tehran

TEHRAN - The fourth Iran-Europe Banking and Business Forum kicked off here on Saturday, official IRNA news agency reported.

Different issues including opening Iranian banks in Europe, fighting money laundering and maintaining international standards are among topics to be discussed during the event, president of Iran's Monetary and Banking Research Institute Ali Divandarri said in the event. Divandarri pointed to

Europe as Iran's second trade partner after Asia, expressing hope for the forum to facilitate mutual trade and banking cooperation.

Maintaining international regulations and rules on fighting money laundering is a pre-requisite for resuming ties between Iranian banking network and international systems, he was quoted as saying. The forum is held twice a year, one hosted by Iran and the other by Germany. (Xinhua)

China, Uzbekistan Stress Cooperation on Belt and Road Initiative

BEIJING, April 28 - Senior official of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Meng Jianzhu met with Deputy Prime Minister of Uzbekistan Rustam Azimov Thursday, stressing cooperation on the Belt and Road Initiative. "China will focus cooperation with Uzbekistan on the Belt and Road Initiative on

outcomes in trade, finance, security and science and technology," said Meng, head of the Commission for Political and Legal Affairs of the CPC Central Committee. Azimov said Uzbekistan fully supported the Belt and Road Initiative and would enhance cooperation with China to boost bilateral ties. (Xinhua)

OSCE Consulting Turkmenistan on Aviation Security

ASHGABAT - An OSCE-organized training course on security procedures at aviation checkpoints and analyzing X-ray images for aviation security and law-enforcement personnel has concluded in Ashgabat, the OSCE said in a message.

The practical training course brought together 19 officials from the Aviation Security Service of Turkmenistan Airlines, the Transport Police of the Interior Ministry, the State Border Service and the State Customs Service.

The nine-day course, which took place in the premises of the Aviation

School of Turkmenistan Airlines, explored the operation of modern X-ray machines, and advanced methods of screening passengers and baggage at airport checkpoints. The experts also presented the up-to-date international regulations regarding aviation security.

Natalya Drozd, head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, said that the OSCE participating states share the objective of achieving a more efficient and effective aviation security system, adding that the event aimed at supporting Turkmenistan's efforts in this area. (Trend)

EU to Meet with Turkey's Erdogan to Mend Fences

BRUSSELS - European Union leaders Donald Tusk and Jean-Claude Juncker will seek a meeting with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in the sidelines of the May 25 NATO summit.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Saturday that after talks with EU Council President Tusk, the EU would make another effort to narrow the rift with candidate nation Turkey. The EU and Turkey have seen relations dip to their lowest point in years in the weeks surrounding the April 16 Turkish referendum. The EU has complained that since the attempted coup last year, Erdogan has suppressed dissent and arrested tens of thousands of people... (More on P4)... (19)

EU Leaders Adopt Guidelines on Brexit Negotiations with Britain

BRUSSELS - The 27 European Union (EU) countries' leaders during their first summit since Britain triggered the Article 50 last month adopted unanimously the guidelines on Brexit negotiations with Britain, European Council President Donald Tusk said Saturday. "Guidelines adopted unanimously. EU27 firm and fair political mandate for the Brexit talks is ready," Tusk tweeted.

"EU27 adopt Article 50 Guidelines in less than 15 minutes," European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker said on his Twitter account. According to the European Council guidelines for Brexit negotiations, throughout the negotiations the

EU will maintain unity and act as one with the aim of reaching a result that is "fair and equitable for all member states and in the interest of its citizens." "The Union's overall objective in these negotiations will be to preserve its interests, those of its citizens, its businesses and its member states," the guidelines say.

While working hard to achieve that outcome, the EU "will prepare itself to be able to handle the situation also if the negotiations were to fail," the guidelines show. Though the EU reiterates its wish to have Britain as a "close partner" in the future, it underlines that "a non-member of the EU, that does not live... (More on P4)... (20)