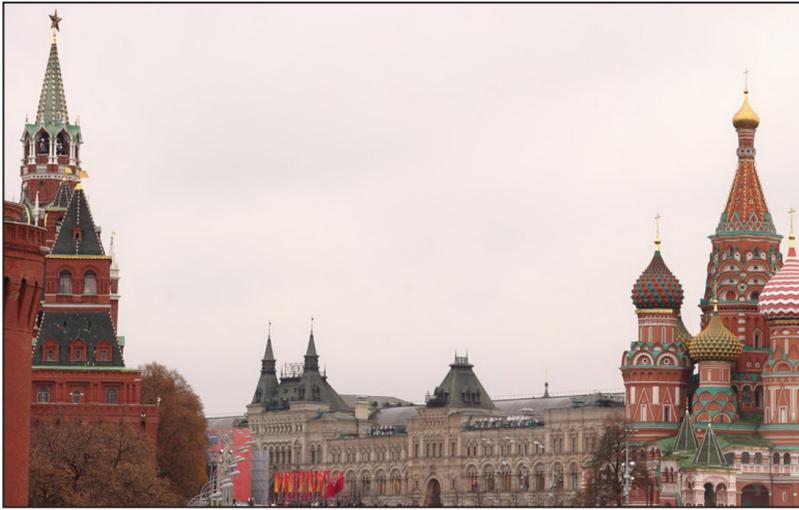


U.S. Diplomats Evacuated from Confiscated Summerhouse in Moscow

MOSCOW - Three trucks, a minibus, a jeep and a taxicab left the summerhouse of the U.S. Embassy in Moscow's prestigious compound of Serbryany Bor in evacuation on Tuesday, as a result of escalating diplomatic tensions between the U.S. and Russia. "The last two employees to leave the property hung a lock on the gates," the RIA Novosti news agency quoted its correspondent who witnessed the departure as saying. On Friday, the Russian Foreign Ministry said Moscow would suspend the use of a warehouse and the summerhouse by the U.S. Embassy staff from Aug. 1, as part of retaliation to a new sanction bill passed in the U.S. Congress



and the expulsion of Russian diplomats and seizure of two Russian diplomatic properties in the United States in December. On Monday, the U.S. Embassy complained that it was denied access to the summerhouse from Sunday. But Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov explained earlier on Tuesday that the problems U.S. diplomats encountered were due to a ban on the entry by large transport vehicles to the territory of the compound. It was not immediately clear whether the U.S. diplomats had completed the evacuation of its Moscow warehouse, but RIA Novosti reported that most of the items kept there were shipped out last week. (Xinhua)

U.S.-Led Airstrikes Kill 60 Civilians in Syria's Deir Al-Zour

DAMASCUS - At least 60 civilians have been killed as a result of U.S.-led airstrikes on areas in Syria's eastern province of Deir al-Zour, state news agency SANA reported on Tuesday. The U.S.-led coalition launched airstrikes on several villages and towns in the eastern countryside of Deir al-Zour over the past few hours on Tuesday, said SANA. SANA added that the "aggression" has caused a massacre, with over 60 people killed and tens of others, mostly children

and women, wounded. The airstrikes came less than 48 hours since the U.S. coalition struck a hospital and a club in the city of Bukamal in Deir al-Zour countryside, killing six civilians, including women and children, and wounding tens of others. The U.S.-led anti-terror coalition has been striking the Islamic State (IS) positions in northern Syria since 2014. Syria's Foreign Ministry called on the UN Security Council to dissolve the U.S.-led coalition, saying such coalition has been



formed without any request by the Syrian government. It also charged that the formation of the U.S. coalition took place out of the framework of the UN,

stressing the UN Security Council must shoulder its responsibilities in keeping peace and international security as well as halting the "crimes" of the coalition. (Xinhua)

British Minister Asks Silicon Valley to do more to Counter Militants

LONDON - Britain's interior minister will use a visit to Silicon Valley on Tuesday to ask Facebook, Microsoft, Twitter, and YouTube to step up efforts to counter or remove content that incites militants. After four militant attacks in Britain that killed 36 people this year, senior ministers have repeatedly demanded that internet companies do more to suppress extremist content and allow access to encrypted communications. In the face of resistance from the industry, Prime

Minister Theresa May - a former interior minister - proposed trying to regulate cyberspace after a deadly attack on London Bridge in June. Home Secretary Amber Rudd will meet executives of social media and internet service providers in San Francisco at the Global Internet Forum to Counter Terrorism, whose partners are Facebook, Alphabet Inc's Google, Microsoft and Twitter. The forum was set up to coordinate the companies' efforts on removing militant content. (Reuters)

Germany Urges United States to Talk to EU about Russia Sanctions

BERLIN - Germany's economy minister appealed to the United States on Tuesday to talk to Europeans about the effects of tougher sanctions they plan to introduce against Russia, saying European companies must not be punished. The White House has said U.S. President Donald Trump will sign the sanctions bill, a response to Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election and a further punishment for Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine.

The European Union fears new U.S. restrictions could hurt some of its companies, especially those involved in the energy sector. "The threat from the United States to also punish European companies by so-called extra-territorial sanctions is not acceptable," said Economy Minister Brigitte Zypries. "It would be very desirable for the U.S. government to sit down with us at the negotiating table and to work through an acceptable solution for all parties," she said. (Reuters)

Trump to Sign Sanctions Bill on Russia this Week

TBILISI - U.S. President Donald Trump will sign the sanctions bill on Russia this week, visiting U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said here on Tuesday at a press conference with Georgia's Prime Minister Giorgi Kvirikashvili. The sanctions bill, which was overwhelmingly approved by the U.S. Senate by a vote of 98-2 on Thursday, targets Russia for its alleged intervention in Ukraine and meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election, which Russian President Vladimir Putin

has repeatedly denied in public. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Sunday hit back at the sanctions by demanding the United States cut its embassy and consulate staff in Russia by 755 people, regarded as Moscow's most aggressive move against Washington since the final years of the Cold War. When commenting the recent US-Russian relations, Pence said that the new sanctions bill toward Rus-



sia that President Trump will sign this week will be a clear message to all allies that US will do exactly what it has said. Pence arrived here late Monday

for a two-day visit, which will be followed by a trip to Montenegro, the newest member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. (Xinhua)

S. Korea Urges DPRK to Respond to Dialogue Overtures

SEOUL - South Korea on Tuesday urged the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to give a positive response to Seoul's earlier dialogue overtures, about which Pyongyang has been mum. "We believe it is necessary to resume inter-Korean cooperation to solve humanitarian issues and ease military tensions," Seoul's unification ministry. The ministry urged the DPRK to respond to Seoul's dialogue offers, vowing multilateral efforts to ease humanitarian issues including the reunion of separated families. The Moon Jae-in government, which was inaugurated on May 10, proposed to hold talks on military affairs with the DPRK on July 21 at the truce village of Panmunjom. (Xinhua)

Japan to Start Work on Revising Basic Energy Policy Next Week

TOKYO - Tokyo will begin discussions on a revision of Japan's basic energy plan next week, Minister of Economy, Trade and Industry Hiroshige Seko said, although he expects no change in the basic structure of energy policy established in 2014. The discussions by a ministry committee would focus on how the 2030 goals for power generation would be achieved, he said. One of the main issues to be addressed will be the Japanese government plan to rely on nuclear power to generate 20 to 22 percent of the country's electricity by 2030. That goal can be achieved by restarting existing nuclear plants and would not require building new reactors, Seko said during a press conference after a Cabinet meeting. (Reuters)

Thousands of Syrian Militants Poised to Leave Lebanon-Syria Border Zone under Deal

FLEITA, Syria - Tens of buses are ready to transfer thousands of militants and civilian refugees from Lebanon into an insurgent-held city in northern Syria. Convoys of buses entered the Lebanese side of the mountainous barrens of Qalamoun region in western Syria on Tuesday, as part of a deal between the Lebanese Hezbollah group and the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front. The deal, which started with a ceasefire, is designed for the evacuation of all Nusra Front militants from Juroud Aarsal region on the Leba-



nese side of the borders with Syria toward Syria's northern city of Idlib and other rebel strongholds in Syria. The deal came after Hezbollah and the Syrian army jointly launched a war on the Nusra positions in Syria's Qalamoun region, mainly in the Fleita barrens and the

adjacent Aarsal barrens in Lebanon. The battle lasted for three days, during which the Syrian army and Hezbollah defeated and cleared Fleita of the Nusra militants, while in Lebanon, the terror-designated group agreed to a deal to leave its positions. (Xinhua)

21 EU States Compete to Host London-Based Agencies after Brexit

BRUSSELS - All but six European Union states are bidding to host one or both the London-based EU agencies that will be relocated after Brexit, setting up a competition that could easily escalate into a squabble. Races for the jobs and prestige associated with hosting EU agencies often become heated, but this diplomatic contest risks weakening the unity of the EU's 27 remaining states in the midst of delicate two-year Brexit talks that started in March. Nineteen cities have made themselves candidates to host the European Medicines Agency

(EMA) while eight are offering to give the European Banking Authority (EBA) a home, the Council of the European Union said on Tuesday. Only Hungary, Slovenia, Cyprus and the three Baltic states of Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia decided not to join the fray. Germany, France, Ireland, Austria, Poland and Belgium are bidding for both the agencies. The European Commission will assess the candidates by September but the decision rests with EU leaders who will try to reach a consensus deal at their next summit in October. (Reuters)

BRICS Countries Have Key Role in Global Economy despite Lower Growth: OECD Expert

PARIS - The BRICS countries will continue to play a key role in the global economy although they reported slower growth in recent years, said an expert with the Paris-based Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). Federico Bonaglia, deputy director of OECD Development Center, said in a recent interview with Xinhua that the slowdown in the growth of the BRICS economies will not have a significant impact on their joint share in the world economy. "China and India continue to maintain a very sustained growth, a situation that both Russia and Brazil are expected to reach next year," Bonaglia said. Latest OECD economic outlook expected a return to growth in Brazil and Russia. Meanwhile, China and India are projected to expand their GDP by more than 6 percent. He noted that India is the only BRICS country that has not experienced a significant slowdown in the past few years, with a growth rate of around 8 percent in 2015 and 7.7 percent projected for 2018. Brazil and Russia are poised for economic recovery, according to Bonaglia. The Brazilian economy contracted 4 percent in 2015 and 3.6 percent in 2016. "The good news is that (it) is expected to return to a positive growth in 2017 and it will reach a growth rate between 1.5-1.6 percent in 2018," he estimated. Russia, which has experienced "a very complicated situation," will also be able to shake off recession in 2017 and reach a growth rate around 1.4 percent, he said. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Xi Stresses Military-Civilian Integration as National Strategy

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping Tuesday urged boosting integrated military and civilian development amid efforts to build a strong military.

Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks at a ceremony to celebrate the 90th founding anniversary of the People's Liberation Army on Aug. 1. China must build a national strategic system and capacity in military-civilian integration, he said.

Upgrading integrated military and civilian development as a national strategy is a major achievement in the Party's long-term exploration of coordinated de-

velopment of economic and national defense construction. It is also a major decision made in consideration of national development and overall security, and a major measure to deal with complicated security threats and gain national strategic advantages, Xi said. He urged efforts to create the "coordinated, balanced and inclusive development" of economic and national defense construction.

Calling the modernization of national defense and military "a common cause of the Party and the people," Xi urged central and state organs, Party committees and governments at all levels to create a favorable environment and offer strong support for building a strong military. (Xinhua)

Nawaz Sharif to be Re-Elected as PM: Shahid Khaqan

ISLAMABAD - The newly elected Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said the PML-N had accepted the Supreme Court's verdict in the Panama Papers case, though the people had rejected Nawaz Sharif's disqualification. In his maiden address to the National Assembly after securing the 221 majority vote from the House, Shahid Khaqan said Nawaz Sharif would be re-elected to the National Assembly and as the prime minister.

Not even a single legal expert, he said, had seconded the apex court de-

cision. Nawaz Sharif left his office immediately after the verdict and the democratic system was continuing in the country without any break, he added.

He said despite the perception that the Pakistan Muslim League-Nawaz would collapse, the party today was stronger than ever before with not a single defection while the democracy was gaining strength. He said a larger court would soon be held, sans the JJI, where the people and the political parties across the divide would vouch for the honesty of Nawaz Sharif. (APP)

Iran Says new U.S. Sanctions Breach Nuclear Deal

LONDON - Iran has complained to the Joint Commission of the JCPOA (not U.N. Security Council) about sanctions the United States imposed on Iran in July, saying they breached Tehran's nuclear deal with major powers, the speaker of parliament was quoted on Tuesday as saying.

The Joint Commission was created to oversee implementation of the nuclear deal - which is also known by its acronym JCPOA - clinched in 2015 between Iran and six major powers, including the United States. The deal led to the lifting of most sanctions against Tehran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme. However, the U.S. Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control imposed sanctions on six Iranian

firms in late July for their role in development of a ballistic missile program after Tehran launched a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

The U.S. Senate also voted on the same day almost unanimously to impose new sanctions on Iran, Russia and North Korea. The sanctions in that bill also target Iran's missile programs as well as human rights abuses. "Iran's JCPOA supervisory body assessed the new U.S. sanctions and decided that they contradict parts of the nuclear deal," Iran's speaker of parliament Ali Larijani was quoted by the Tasnim news agency as saying. "Iran has complained to the (Joint) Commission (of the JCPOA) for the breach of the deal by America," he added. (Reuters)

Indian Army Chief Leaves for Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan

NEW DELHI - Indian Army chief General Bipin Rawat Tuesday embarked on a six-day tour of Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. General Rawat, who is leading a high-level military delegation, will first go to Kazakhstan, where he will meet the defense minister, chairman of the National Security Committee, junior defense minister and the commander-in-chief of Land Forces during his three-day stay. In a statement, the Indian Defense Ministry said that General Rawat and his delegation will also visit the elite Air Assault Brigade and National De-

fence University in capital Astana, where he shall be inaugurating an Indian Military Art Room. During the visit, General Rawat will be meeting the minister of defense and secretary of the National Security Council, the first deputy minister, the chief of general staff and commanders of land, naval, air and air defense forces of Turkmenistan, the statement said. "The visit to Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan is yet another outreach initiative to engage with our extended neighbourhood and strengthen the existing defence cooperation with the two nations," the statement said. (Xinhua)