

UN Imposes Tough New Sanctions on North Korea

UNITED NATIONS — The U.N. Security Council unanimously approved tough new sanctions Saturday to punish North Korea for its escalating nuclear and missile programs including a ban on coal and other exports worth over \$1 billion — a huge bite in its total exports, valued at \$3 billion last year. U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley called the resolution “the single largest economic sanctions package ever leveled against the North Korean regime” and “the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation.” But she warned that it is not enough and “we should not fool ourselves into thinking we have solved the problem — not even close.” “The threat of an outlaw



nuclearized North Korean dictatorship remains ... (and) is rapidly growing more dangerous,” Haley told council members after the vote. The U.S.-drafted resolution, negotiated with North Korea's neighbor and ally China, is aimed at increasing economic pressure on Pyongyang to return to negotiations on its nuclear and missile programs — a point stressed by all 15 council members in speeches after the vote. President Donald Trump tweeted: “The United Nations Security Council just voted 15-0 to sanction North Korea. China and Russia voted with us. Very big financial impact!” (AP)

Joining Arab States, Israel Says it Plans to Ban Al-Jazeera

JERUSALEM — Israel said Sunday it plans to ban Qatar's flagship Al-Jazeera news network from operating in the country over allegations it incites violence, joining Arab nations that have shut down the broadcaster amid a separate political dispute. Communications Minister Ayoob Kara said he plans to revoke the press credentials of Al-Jazeera journalists, effectively preventing them from working in Israel. Kara said he has asked cable and satellite networks to block Al Jazeera transmissions and is seeking

legislation to ban them altogether. The minister, a member of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's Likud Party, gave no timetable for such measures. Doha-based Al-Jazeera did not immediately respond to a request for comment. Its Arab and English channels reported the news. Walid al-Omari, the broadcaster's bureau chief in Jerusalem, said on air that his office has not been informed by Israeli officials of any possible measures the government might take. (AP)

UK Ready to Pay up to 40 Billion Euros to Leave EU: Sunday Telegraph

LONDON - Britain is prepared to pay up to 40 billion euros (\$47 billion) as part of a deal to leave the European Union, the Sunday Telegraph newspaper reported, citing three unnamed sources familiar with Britain's negotiating strategy. The EU has floated a figure of 60 billion euros and wants significant progress on settling Britain's liabilities before talks start on issues such as future trading arrangements. The government department responsible for Brexit talks declined to comment on the article. So

far, Britain has given no official indication of how much it would be willing to pay. The newspaper said British officials were likely to offer to pay 10 billion euros a year for three years after leaving the EU in March 2019, then finalize the total alongside detailed trade talks. Payments would only be made as part of a deal that included a trade agreement, the newspaper added. “We know (the EU's) position is 60 billion euros, but



the actual bottom line is 50 billion euros. Ours is closer to 30 billion euros but the actual landing zone is 40 billion euros, even if

the public and politicians are not all there yet,” the newspaper quoted one “senior Whitehall source” as saying. (Reuters)

Russia's Lavrov Meets Tillerson, Says Feels U.S. Ready to Continue Dialogue



MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Sunday he believed his U.S. colleagues were ready to continue dialogue with Moscow on complex issues despite bilateral tensions.

Lavrov, who met U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on the sidelines of an international gathering in Manila, said the first thing that Tillerson asked about was Russia's retaliation to new U.S. sanctions

against Moscow. “He was primarily interested ... in details of those decisions that we grudgingly made in response to the law on anti-Russian sanctions,” Lavrov said. The meeting was their first since President Donald Trump reluctantly signed into law the sanctions that Russia said amounted to a full-scale trade war and ended hopes for better ties. “We provided an explanation,” Lavrov said, referring to Russia's decision to take over a summer-house compound in Moscow leased by the

U.S. embassy and an order to slash U.S. diplomatic presence in Russia. Lavrov said he also cited President Vladimir Putin who, in an interview to Russian TV last week, explained Moscow's need to retaliate to the U.S. sanctions over its role in the Ukrainian crisis and recently expanded to punish Russia for meddling in the U.S. presidential election. Lavrov described his talks with Tillerson as lengthy and said they covered a wide range of ... (More on P4)... (16)

N. Korean Missiles Add Urgency to Hiroshima A-Bomb Appeals

HIROSHIMA, Japan — Hiroshima's appeal of “never again” on the 72nd anniversary Sunday of the world's first atomic bomb attack has gained urgency as North Korea accelerates work on its nuclear weapons program, showing its growing prowess with increasingly frequent missile launches. The impact of the explosion threw them both to the ground, nearly killing him. “Obviously tensions are growing as North Korea has been pushing ahead with nuclear tests and development,” said Fuji-

mori. “Nuclear weapons just are unacceptable for mankind.” Many Japanese and others in the region seem resigned to North Korea's apparent newfound capacity to launch missiles capable of reaching much of the continental United States. “This hell is not a thing of the past,” Hiroshima Mayor Kazumi Matsui said in his peace declaration at Sunday's ceremony. “As long as nuclear weapons exist and policymakers threaten their use, their horror could leap into our present at any moment. (AP)

U.N. Security Council Unanimously Adopts New Sanctions against DPRK

UNITED NATIONS - The U.N. Security Council, in an exceptional session on Saturday, unanimously adopted a new resolution to impose new sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) for ignoring previous resolutions and its recent intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) tests. Resolution 2371 (2017), drafted by the United States, bans DPRK's exports of coal (DPRK's largest source of external revenue), iron, iron ore, lead, lead ore and seafood. Such measures will prevent the DPRK from earning over 1 billion U.S. dollars per year of hard currency that would be redirected to its illicit programs, according to the resolution.

The DPRK earns approximately 3 billion U.S. dollars per year from its exports. Additional sanctions target the DPRK's arms smuggling, joint ventures with foreign companies, banks, and other sources of revenue. “This resolution is the single largest economic sanctions package” ever leveled against Pyongyang, said Ambassador Nikki Haley of the United States, noting that the sanctions will lead to the loss of one-third of the DPRK exports and hard currency. “This is the most stringent set of sanctions on any country in a generation,” said Haley. The resolution reaffirmed previous sanctions forbidding launches using ballistic missile technology and nuclear tests. It designated several additional individuals for a travel ban and asset freeze, and also entities for asset freeze. Meanwhile, the council sought resumption of the six-party talks aimed at verifiable denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The six parties are the DPRK, China, Japan, Russia, South Korea and the United States. (Xinhua)

Airstrikes Kill over 170 IS Militants in Iraq's Salahudin

BAGHDAD - More than 170 suspected Islamic State (IS) militants were killed in a series of airstrikes near the town of Shirqat in Iraq's northern central province of Salahudin, the Iraqi military said on Sunday. “The Iraqi army's helicopter gunships, in coordination with Salahudin's Operations Command (SOC), carried out effective airstrikes on Daesh terrorist gangs (IS group) in Tasne'i Askari area in southwest of Shirqat, some 280 km north of the Iraqi capital of Baghdad, leaving a total of 170 terrorists killed,” the



defense ministry said in a statement. The airstrikes also hit eight posts with heavy machine guns, two trucks carrying machine guns and 11 vehicles carrying weapons and militants, the statement said. Meanwhile, an SOC force conducted a search cam-

paign in the areas of Ayn al-Faras and E'eiwij in northwestern part of the province and destroyed two IS hideouts and four of their motorcycles, along with arresting an IS member driving a truck for the terrorist ... (More on P4)... (17)

France Opens Counter-Terrorism Probe into Knife-Wielding Man at Eiffel Tower

PARIS - French prosecutors have opened a counter-terrorism investigation after a man with a knife tried to force his way in to Paris' Eiffel Tower late on Saturday, a judicial source said. The incident at the world-famous tourist site was initially treated as a criminal matter, but was later designated a counter-terrorism case because of the suspect's statements to police and his apparent radicalization, the source said. The company that operates the Eiffel Tower said in a statement early on Sunday that a man with a knife tried to force his way

through a security check at around 2130 GMT on Saturday before being quickly stopped. A source close to the investigation said the suspect, a French national born in Mauritania in 1998, had been in a psychiatric hospital for several months and was granted temporary permission to leave care from Aug. 4 to Aug. 6. During questioning by police, the man stated he had wanted to carry out an attack against a soldier and was in contact with a member of militant group Islamic State who encouraged him to act, the source said. (Reuters)

China, Russia to Maintain Close Communications on Korean Peninsula Issue

MANILA - China and Russia vowed on Sunday to maintain close communications with each other on the Korean Peninsula issue, saying the two countries hold highly consistent attitudes toward it. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said he and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov held an extensive and profound exchange of views over the current situation in the Korean Peninsula, especially the new resolution passed by the UN Security Council.

Wang and Lavrov met on the sidelines of the East Asia Summit Foreign Ministers' Meeting and a series of other meetings which are being held in the Philippine capital city of Manila.

“We think the most important thing is to prevent the further escalation of the tensions on the Korean Peninsula and follow the proposal of ‘double suspension’ and ‘double-track’ approach to return to the right track of solving the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through peaceful talks,” Wang said.

Wang said China and Russia are enjoying strong bilateral relations with both sides agreeing, no matter how the world changes, to view each other as diplomatic priority, deepen strategic mutual trust, enhance mutual support and strengthen comprehensive cooperation.

Lavrov agreed with Wang's positive evaluations of bilateral relations, saying that Russian President Vladimir Putin is looking forward to attending the BRICS summit to be held in Xiamen in China's Fujian Province in September and that Russia is willing to give full support to the summit. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China, ASEAN Agree to Build Higher Level of Strategic Partnership

MANILA - China and ASEAN nations on Sunday expressed satisfaction with the achievements made in their strategic partnership during the last 15 years and agreed to further enhance cooperation. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and his counterparts from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) made the pledge at a meeting in Manila.

Wang congratulated ASEAN for its 50th anniversary, saying China is happy for ASEAN's development and achievements while expressing best wishes for ASEAN's better and faster development in the next 50 years.

As an important regional organization, ASEAN has become a major force in promoting regional integration and maintain-

ing regional peace and stability, Wang said.

China has always taken ASEAN as a priority in its foreign diplomacy and has always supported ASEAN in taking a central role in regional cooperation and a bigger role in dealing with international and regional affairs, Wang said.

As China and ASEAN celebrate the 15th anniversary of strategic partnership next year, both sides are also facing a critical point to bring the ties to a higher level, Wang said, calling for future actions to build a higher level China-ASEAN strategic partnership and a closer community of common destiny of China and ASEAN.

Wang outlined a seven-point proposal on future China-ASEAN cooperation put forward by the Chinese side. (Xinhua)

Indus Water Treaty, Imperative to Ensure Peace in Region: Kh Asif

SIALKOT - Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif on Sunday called for honoring Indus Water Treaty (IWT) in order to ensure regional peace.

He warned that any misadventure would eventually create unrest in the region.

Talking to the media, he said that Pakistan was a peace-loving country and wanted cordial relations with regional coun-

tries on equal basis.

He said Pakistan was showing flexibility just for the cause of peace in the region.

It should not be construed as weakness, he said and added that Pakistan was fully capable to defend its geographical boundaries.

He pointed out that India had been resorting to violations of Line of Control ceasefire agreement. (APP)

Iran's Rouhani, Embarking on Second Term, Accuses Trump over Nuclear Deal

LONDON - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani, who was sworn-in for a second term on Saturday, has accused the United States of trying to undermine Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers, telling President Donald Trump that it will be his political suicide.

Rouhani, who was decisively re-elected in May after promising to open Iran to the world, took the oath of office before parliament in Tehran in the presence of foreign dignitaries including senior European figures.

“The U.S. lack of commitment to implementation of the nuclear deal... proved it to be an unreliable partner to the world and even to its longtime allies,” Rouhani said in a ceremony broadcast live

on state television.

The deal he championed with the United States and five other major powers in 2015 led to the lifting of most sanctions against Iran in return for curbs on its nuclear programme.

Rouhani has intensified efforts to protect the deal - the biggest achievement of his first term - against Washington's return to an aggressive Iran policy.

In comments aimed at Trump, Rouhani said: “Those who want to tear up the nuclear deal should know that they will be ripping up their own political life.”

The U.S. Senate voted in late July to impose new sanctions on Iran over its missiles programme and human rights issues. (Reuters)

Iran, Tajikistan to Hold Joint Commission within Months

DUSHANBE - In a meeting with his Tajik counterpart, Iran's energy minister reported on holding a joint commission between the two countries in the months to come.

During a meeting with Minister of Energy and Water Resources of the Republic of Tajikistan Usmonali Usmonzoda, Iranian Minister of Energy Hamid Chitchian expressed hope that a joint commission between the two countries will convene in the near future given that a committee has been recently formed in Dushanbe in order to follow up the issue.

He said Iran's Ministry of Energy has always sought to provide economic and technical requirements of the two

sides in a bid to boost economic cooperation; “we hope that debts of Sang Toodeh II Hydroelectric Power Plant will be settled so that the Iranian side can expand sphere of collaborations.”

Touching upon CASA-1000 power project, Chitchian said Iran could launch partnership with the electricity route and part of the electricity produced at Sang Toodeh II can be transferred to Iran.

Later at the meeting, Usmonzoda of Tajikistan said heads of the four governments involved in CASA-1000 project as well as investment banks had gathered in Dushanbe and reached preliminary agreements. (MNA)