

Korean Peninsula Issue Needs Political Solution: Russian FM

MOSCOW - Economic pressure on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) is not an alternative to a political solution to the Korean Peninsula issue, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Wednesday.

"We cannot support the idea, which some of our partners are hatching, of economically suffocating the DPRK, since it may cause negative and tragic humanitarian consequences," Lavrov said at a press conference. He recalled all the United Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions imposing sanctions on the DPRK and called for the resumption of political talks to reach a peaceful and diplomatic settlement



of the Korean Peninsula issue. While the sanctions were observed, the appeal to seek a political solution was largely ignored, Lavrov said.

Russia joins China in a "double suspension" proposal, which requires the DPRK to suspend its missile and nuclear activities in exchange for the suspension of large-scale U.S.-South Korean military drills. Lavrov criticized the United States for rejecting this plan, saying that Washington's position is based on "falsely understood ideas of prestige" rather than on consideration for the fate of the region and numerous people, who may suffer if hostilities start there. (Xinhua)

No Border Posts with Ireland after Brexit

LONDON - The British government has vowed repeatedly to end the free movement of people from the European Union when the U.K. leaves the bloc in 2019. But on Wednesday it acknowledged that, in one area of the country, it won't.

Britain said there must be no border posts or electronic checks between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic after Brexit, and it committed itself to maintaining the longstanding, border-free Common Travel Area covering the U.K. and Ireland. "There should be

no physical border infrastructure of any kind on either side of the border between Northern Ireland and Ireland," Conservative British Prime Minister Theresa May said. Free movement among member states is a key EU principle, and has seen hundreds of thousands of people move to Britain and get jobs there since the bloc expanded into eastern Europe more than a decade ago.

Many Britons who voted last year to leave the EU cited a desire to regain control of immigration as a key reason. (AP)

Criticism, Praise Poured on Britain's 1st Position Paper on Brexit

LONDON - Opposition politicians in Britain on Tuesday criticised government proposals for an interim trading deal with the European Union (EU), but business leaders welcomed the proposals, saying that if accepted by Brussels, it would avoid a "cliff edge" in March 2019 when Britain leaves the EU. Brexit Secretary David Davis wants a tariff-free interim customs arrangement to start when Britain ends its EU membership. It would mean current exporting and importing arrangements would continue

virtually unchanged to enable a permanent deal to eventually be agreed by both sides.

The new paper was released as the first in a series of documents to be published in order to outline Britain's position on major issues of Brexit.

Labour's Keir Starmer, the shadow Brexit secretary, described Davis's proposals as "incoherent and inadequate," saying they were designed to gloss over deep and continuing divisions within British Prime Minister



Theresa May's cabinet.

"Businesses, trade unions and the country need certainty about our future trading and customs arrangements," Starmer

said. "Instead, the cabinet remain split on key issues and cannot decide between two very different but equally unachievable options." (Xinhua)

Turkey Warns of Civil War over Independence Referendum in Northern Iraq



ANKARA - Turkey objected on Wednesday against a planned referendum for independence by Kurds in northern

Iraq, saying it could lead to civil war. "The independence referendum will lead to a worse situation in the country, even

might lead to civil war," Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said in a televised interview. The Turkish government

expects Iraqi Kurdistan Regional Government to change its mind about an independence referendum set for September 25, the minister said.

The minister also said that Russia's military chief would visit Turkey for discussions on developments in Syria's Idlib province, where jihadists linked to a former al-Qaeda affiliate have taken control.

Turkey opposes the independence of Iraqi Kurdistan, saying it would threaten the integrity of Iraq. (Xinhua)

Swiss, EU Move Closer to Linking Emissions Trading Systems

ZURICH - Switzerland and the European Union have moved closer to linking their carbon emissions trading systems (ETS) after the European Commission and Swiss government gave their backing for a deal.

An accord could be signed by the year's end and needs approval from EU leaders and ratification by the Swiss and EU parliaments, according to announcements in Brussels and Bern. The Swiss ETS now includes 54 major carbon dioxide (CO2) emitters. Linking

the Swiss and European systems will let these companies access a bigger and more liquid market. Once the agreement takes effect, not expected before 2019, participants in the EU ETS will be able to use units from the Swiss system for compliance and vice versa, and emissions generated by aviation will also be included in the Swiss system. The Swiss ETS is based on the cap-and-trade principle. The cap was set at 5.63 million tonnes of CO2 for 2013 and is reduced by 1.74 percent every year. (Reuters)

Britain's Biggest Ever Warship Sails into Home Port

LONDON - Britain's biggest flagship of the Royal Navy, HMS Queen Elizabeth, Wednesday sailed for the first time into Portsmouth, its home port, and was greeted by thousands of people.

Secretary of State for Defense Sir Michael Fallon said: "Today we welcome our mighty new warship, HMS Queen Elizabeth to her home for the very first time. She is Britain's statement to the world: a demonstration of British military power and our commitment to a bigger global role." The 65,000 tone warship was also greeted with a flypast from the Fleet Air Arm, including Wildcat and Merlin helicopters and Hawk jets.

Fallon said the thousands of people across Britain who played a part in building her and her sister ship, HMS Prince of Wales, should be immensely proud as the Royal Navy's future flagship enters Portsmouth.

"She has made good progress in sea trials and will now embark on the next phase of preparations that will see the return of Britain's carrier strike ability," added Fallon. When the carrier enters service, she will help keep Britain safe at a time of increased threats, able to fill multiple roles from providing air power anywhere at any time to fight future campaigns, supporting allies or delivering humanitarian aid, said Fallon.

The carrier is 280 meters in length and has a speed of 25 knots, with a flight deck large enough to accommodate three full sized football pitches.

It has a crew of around 700, increasing to 1,600 when a full complement of F-35B aircraft and four Crowsnest helicopters are added later. (Xinhua)

US Military Chief Urges China to Pressure North Korea

BEIJING - The head of the US military said during a visit to Beijing that it was increasingly urgent for China to step up pressure on North Korea, according to a Pentagon spokesman on Wednesday.

General Joe Dunford, chairman of the US Joint Chiefs of Staff, told General Fang Fenghui during a meeting on Tuesday that the United States was ready to use military options if diplomacy fails, Captain Daryn James said in a statement.

During their talks, Dunford and Fang, who is



chief of the Joint Staff Department, signed an agreement to improve communication between the offices of top military officials.

But Dunford "stressed that it will only be useful if it results in reducing the risk of miscalculation," James said. The US general had "delivered a clear message that North Korean ballistic missile and nuclear weapons programs threaten the entire global community, including China, Russia, the US and our allies," James said. (AFP)

UN Experts Deeply Concerned at Proliferation of Organized Hate and Racist Groups in US

GENEVA - A group of UN human rights experts warned on Wednesday that racism and xenophobia are on the rise across the United States, saying they are deeply concerned at the proliferation and increasing prominence of organized hate and racist groups.

"We are outraged by the violence in Charlottesville and the racial hatred displayed by right-wing extremists, white supremacists and neo-Nazi groups," said the experts in a joint statement issued Wednesday, in the

wake of the far-right demonstrations and violence in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"We view these events as the latest examples of increasing racism, racial discrimination, Afrophobia, racist violence and xenophobia observed in demonstrations across the USA," they added. "Acts of hatred and racist hate speech must be unequivocally condemned. Hate crimes must be investigated and the perpetrators prosecuted," the said. (Xinhua)

UK Leader Criticizes Trump Remarks Blaming 'Both Sides'

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May has criticized President Donald Trump's remarks blaming "both sides" in weekend violence between white supremacists and counter-demonstrators in Virginia, declaring that there's "no equivalence" between the two groups.

Britain's leader, speaking in Portsmouth on Wednesday at the unveiling of the nation's new aircraft carrier, rebuffed Trump's comments, underscoring that she saw "no equivalence between those who propound fascist views and those who oppose them."

She did not criticize the U.S. president by name, but said it was incumbent upon leaders to counter far-right views "wherever we hear them." (AP)

Merkel Says Doing Everything to Get Peaceful Solution on N.Korea

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Wednesday concerns about a crisis over North Korea could only be solved by negotiation and she was doing everything possible to achieve a peaceful resolution.

"I am totally against the rhetorical argument that is being used by all sides ... There is no military solution for this conflict, it must be worked out via negotiations," Merkel said in response to a question on North Korea in a YouTube interview. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

China Urges US, North Korea to 'Hit the Brakes' on Threats

BEIJING - China has urged the United States and North Korea to "hit the brakes" on threatening words and work toward a peaceful resolution of their tense standoff created by Pyongyang's recent missile tests and threats to fire them toward Guam.

The dispute has also raised fears in South Korea, where a conservative political party on Wednesday called for the United States to bring back tactical nuclear weapons to the Korean Peninsula.

In a sign of growing concern on the part of Pyongyang's only major ally, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said in a phone conversation with his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, that the two countries should work together to contain tensions and permit no one to "stir up an incident on their doorstep,"

according to a statement posted on the Chinese foreign ministry's website.

"The most important task at hand is for the U.S. and North Korea to 'hit the brakes' on their mutual needling of each other with words and actions, to lower the temperature of the tense situation and prevent the emergence of an 'August crisis,'" Wang was quoted as saying in the Tuesday conversation.

The ministry quoted Lavrov as saying tensions could rise again with the U.S. and South Korea set to launch large-scale military exercises on Aug. 21. "A resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue by military force is completely unacceptable and the peninsula's nuclear issue must be peacefully resolved by political and diplomatic methods," Lavrov was quoted as saying. (AP)

Iran's Military Chief Visits Ankara for Unprecedented Talks on Syria, Iraq

ANKARA - Iran's military chief of staff has arrived in Ankara for talks with Turkey's leadership reportedly aimed at narrowing differences on the Syria crisis and coordinating policy on Iraq.

General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri is due to meet Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli and President Recep Tayyip Erdogan during his three-day visit.

He kicked off the visit Tuesday afternoon by meeting his Turkish counterpart, General Hulusi Akar, in a rare meeting between two such senior military figures in the Turkish capital, the state-run Anadolu news agency said, without providing further details.

Pro-government Turk-

ish newspaper Daily Sabah quoted diplomatic sources as saying the visit was a "milestone" and "would not have been possible unless both sides were willing to make deals on both Syria and Iraq." Iran's official IRNA news agency meanwhile described the visit as "unprecedented" in the history of bilateral relations amid differences on the Syria crisis.

"It is an important visit indeed and the timing is also very appropriate. Turkey and Iran are two friendly neighboring states which have important influence and interests in the region, politically, economically and culturally," said to Xinhua a Turkish diplomatic source. (Xinhua)

US Army Central Command Delegation on Three-Day Visit to Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - A six-member US delegation of United States Army Central Command led by Lieutenant General Michael Garrett is on a three-day visit to Pakistan this week.

According to a press release issued here on Wednesday, on his first visit to Pakistan, LTG Garrett and the members of delegation met with the Pakistan's Army Chief of General Staff, the Director General of Military Training and the Director General of Military Operations at the Army General Headquarters.

LTG Garrett also met with the Director General of Joint Staff and Director General of Joint Warfare and Training to discuss operations, training, and other areas of military cooperation between the United States and Pakistan. LTG Garrett also visited the National Counter Terrorism Training Centre in Pabbi, Punjab province where the center's director briefed the delegation on Pakistani efforts to train soldiers to fight terrorist groups. "It was my distinct honor to visit Pakistan," said LTG Garrett. "This visit is significant in continuing to build the relationship between our two militaries and countries, one of our key partnerships in the region." These events allow both countries to build relationships necessary to advance counterterrorism efforts in the region. (Monitoring Desk)

Heads of CIS Industrial Security Structures to Meet in Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - The XV meeting of the CIS Interstate Council on Industrial Safety will take place in Khujand on September 14-15, Avesta reported.

The agenda of the event includes issues of strengthening cooperation between the industrial safety structures of the CIS countries.

The Council was created to resolve the problems in the field of industrial safety and ensuring guarantees of live and health

safety of the employees working in dangerous industrial objects and protection of the population and environment from man-made accidents.

The Inter-State Council on Industrial Safety consists of Ambassadors of 9 CIS member states - Azerbaijan, Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Ukraine and representatives of the CIS Executive Committee. (AKI)