

Britain to Unveil Proposals to Solve Post-Brexit Cross-Border Legal Disputes

LONDON - The British government will on Tuesday unveil proposals for solving cross-border legal disputes after Britain leaves the European Union.

The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) said under the proposals, families, businesses and individuals living and working across Britain and the EU will resolve disputes "in a clear and sensible way."

The future partnership paper on civil judicial cooperation will cover plans for handling consumer disputes as well as those of businesses and investors.

"These could relate to issues such as a small business that



has been left out of pocket by a supplier based in another EU country, a consumer who wants to sue a business in another country for a defective product they have purchased online, or a person who needs to settle divorce, child custody or child maintenance issues with a family member who is living in a different EU country," explained a DExEU spokesman. "With more and more families living across borders, we need to make absolutely sure that if and when problems arise, they can be reassured that cross-border laws will apply to them in a fair and sensible way," the department said. (Xinhua)

Brexit Chiefs Spell out Aims for Cross-Channel Goods after Britain Leaves EU

LONDON - Two new position papers detailing Britain's negotiating stance on Brexit were published Monday.

The latest position papers outline the British government's negotiating approach to goods on the market and to confidentiality and access to official documents.

They are the first of five negotiating documents being published ahead of a third round of negotiations taking place in Brussels. The Department for Exiting the European

Union (Dexeu) said the documents make the case for why it is in the interests of both the EU and the UK that Britain's exit is as smooth and orderly as possible for businesses and consumers on both sides of the English Channel. Brexit Secretary David Davis said: "We have already begun to set out what we would like to see from a future relationship on issues such as customs and are ready to begin a formal dialogue on this and other issues." (Xinhua)

Pan-EU Cooperation Crucial in Anti-Terror Fight, but not so Easy

PARIS - Two gruesome terrorist attacks that hit Spain last week confirm the transnational nature of the jihadist threat facing Europe, and highlight the need for more intensive and more structural collaboration among European Union (EU) member states to combat terrorism effectively.

The double attacks in Catalonia last Thursday and Friday, which claimed 15 lives and injured over 120 others, and the knife attack in Turku, Finland, were the latest to rub salt into the EU's wound, as

France, Germany, Belgium, Sweden and the United Kingdom still struggle to recover from a number of bloody attacks since 2015.

To fight against this scourge that transcends borders, politicians and analysts have made repeated calls for more cooperation within the EU.

"This terrorism is long-term, so we need vigilance, prevention, deterrence and cooperation in Europe, which are the decisive elements in achieving a definitive



fight against terrorism... It is a battle that we must fight jointly," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said last Friday in Barcelona.

Considerable efforts have been made in recent years in the area of such cooperation, particularly with regard to counter-terrorism measures. (Xinhua)

U.S. Military Commanders Hold Rare Press Conference in S.Korea on DPRK Issues



SEOUL - Top commanding generals of the United States on Tuesday held a rare press conference in South Korea to reaffirm the U.S. com-

mitment to the defense of its ally, South Korea, against nuclear and missile threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK).

Adm. Harry Harris, chief of the U.S. Pacific Command, held the press conference at the Osan Air Base outside Seoul along with visiting commander of U.S. Strategic Command Gen. John Hyten and Lt. Gen. Samuel Greaves, director of the U.S. Missile Defense Agency.

The top-level U.S. military leaders arrived in South Korea ahead of the annual South Korea-U.S. joint military drills, code-named Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) that kicked off Monday.

The computerized command post exercise will last until next Thursday. Harris, who oversees the U.S. armed forces covering the Asia-Pacific region, said the U.S. is always ready to defend the region, reaffirming the U.S. commitment to its allies including South Korea and Japan.

He said it would be important to work for "diplomatic solutions to the challenge presented by (top DPRK leader) Kim Jong Un," according to local media reports. (Xinhua)

Mattis Confirms U.S. Support to Preserve Iraq's Unity

BAGHDAD - U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis on Tuesday confirmed the U.S. support to maintain Iraq's unity during his meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi, the Iraqi government said in a statement.

A statement of Abadi's office said that the prime minister received in his office a U.S. delegation led by Mattis, and the two sides discussed bilateral cooperation in fight against the terrorist Islamic State (IS) group. Mattis reiterated his country's support to Iraq in its war against terrorism, asserting his country's attitude to "maintain

Iraq's unity and rejects any action aimed at dividing and destabilizing it," the statement said. The referendum is viewed by some regional and international officials as a threat to both Iraqi and regional security, putting Barzani under heavy pressure from the U.S. to postpone an independence referendum. Earlier in the day, Mattis arrived in the capital Baghdad with the aim of holding talks with top Iraqi and military commanders to discuss bilateral relations and the offensive against the IS group in the city of Tal Afar in west of Mosul. (Xinhua)

NATO Chief to Visit Poland as Russian War Games Loom

WARSAW - NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg will visit a US-led NATO battalion in Poland on Friday amid concern on the alliance's eastern flank over a huge Russian military exercise in neighboring Belarus next month.

Stoltenberg will hold talks with Polish President Andrzej Duda in Warsaw on Thursday before travelling to the NATO base in the northern village of Orzysz, Tomasz Szatkowski, Poland's deputy defence minister, told local media on Tuesday. The multinational battalion in Orzysz is one of four deployed by NATO this spring to Poland and the Baltic states of Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania, aimed at reassuring its easternmost allies unsettled by Russia's frequent military exercises near the region in the wake of its 2014 annexation of Crimea from Ukraine. Speaking in Washington this month, Stoltenberg said it was "correct to say that NATO's relationship with Russia is more difficult than it has been any time since the end of the Cold War."

General Ben Hodges, commander of US ground forces in Europe, said last week that "Poland has become for the United States Army the centre of gravity for everything that we're doing in terms of deterrence" regarding Russia.

The Orzysz base lies about 100 kilometers (60 miles) from Russia's Kaliningrad exclave and a stone's throw from the Suwalki Gap, a strategically important land corridor critical to the security of the Baltic states.

The gap, a 65-kilometre stretch of border with Lithuania, is sandwiched between the Russian exclave of Kaliningrad and Belarus. (AFP)

U.S., N. Korea Clash at U.N. Arms Forum on Nuclear Threat

GENEVA - North Korea and the United States accused each other on Tuesday of posing a military threat to the other, with Pyongyang's envoy declaring it would never put its nuclear arsenal up for negotiation. The debate at the United Nations began when the U.S. envoy said President Donald Trump's top priority was to protect the United States and its allies against the "growing threat" from North Korea. To do so, he said, the country was ready to use "the full range of capabilities at our disposal".



U.S. disarmament ambassador Robert Wood told the United Nations-sponsored Conference on Disarmament that the "path to dialogue still remains an option" for Pyongyang, but that Washington was "undeterred in defending

against the threat North Korea poses". Fears have grown over North Korea's development of missiles and nuclear weapons since Pyongyang launched intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) in July. (Reuters)

Japan Minister Sees Unity with Trump, Pressure on N. Korea

TOKYO - Japan's new foreign minister is a reputed renegade, famous for bashing his ruling party's policies with stands against nuclear power and for stricter checks on foreign aid.

Taro Kono, appointed earlier this month, said he won't abandon his pet issues, but will make sure to send a united message when representing his country to the outside world.

In comments to reporters Tuesday at the Foreign Ministry, Kono was the mark of diplomacy when referring to Japan's relations with the U.S., its most important ally.

He said he saw no divisions or confusion in the administration of President Donald Trump in his recent talks with officials including Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Ambassador to Japan William Hagerty.

"Things have never been easier," he said. "We can have solid talks." When asked about how some observers found Washington divided and confusing, Kono acknowledged that some changes were inevitable simply because Trump is a Republican, unlike his predecessor, Barack Obama. (AP)

German FM Accuses Merkel of Dishonesty as Election Campaign Heats up

BERLIN - German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel has publicly accused Chancellor Angela Merkel of dishonesty on Tuesday, highlighting growing tension within the country's ruling coalition government as national elections loom. Speaking during an interview with Deutsche Press-Agentur, Gabriel from the Social Democratic Party (SPD) said that Merkel's recent promise, not to cut social spending as her party seeks to boost Germany's annual defense budget, lacked credibility.

"Where else should the money come from? The CDU (the Christian Democratic Union), CSU and Ms. Merkel consistently refuse to reveal how they intend to fund their proposal," he asked. Gabriel's comments came as a response to a vow by Merkel "not to cut anything" to gradually achieve the annual two percent of GDP goal for defense spending set by NATO. The sharpness in his tone was unusual for Germany's top diplomat who remains one of the most senior ministers in Merkel's cabinet until a new federal parliament (Bundestag) is elected in September. The SPD politician went further in his criticism, accusing the Chancellor of having repeatedly reneged on campaign promises in the past. "If I experience again and again that someone does the opposite after an election of what they promised beforehand, then all the current assurances, that the planned increase in defense spending will not be financed with cuts to the welfare budget, cannot be taken seriously," he told dpa. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China Asks World for Recognizing Pakistan's Sacrifices in War on Terror

BEIJING - China Tuesday asked the world to recognize Pakistan's great sacrifices and important role in the fight against terrorism.

"Pakistan was on the front line in the struggle against terrorism and has made great sacrifices and important contributions in the fight," Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said this while reacting to 'the US president's speech on Afghanistan' during her regular press briefing here.

"We believe that the in-

ternational community fully recognizes Pakistan's role in the war on terror," she added.

She said China wanted to see Pakistan and the United States to carry out anti-terror cooperation on the basis of mutual respect, and work together for the security and stability in the region and world.

"We hope that the US policies will help promote the security, stability and development of Afghanistan and the region," Hua said. (Monitoring Desk)

Abbasi Discusses "Issues of National Importance" with Nawaz Sharif

LAHORE - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday had a meeting with former Prime Minister Muhammad Nawaz Sharif here at Jati Umra, Raiwind.

A press release from the Pakistani prime minister Media Office said "wide-ranging issues of national importance and overall situation was discussed during the meeting."

Chief Minister Punjab

Muhammad Shahbaz Sharif and Finance Minister Mohammad Ishaq Dar were also present during the meeting.

The Press Release said efforts of the government to continue developmental agenda also came under discussion.

Prime Minister Abbasi also briefed the meeting about his recent interactions with parliamentarians and members of the Party. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Says can Produce Highly Enriched Uranium in Days if U.S. Quits Deal

LONDON - Iran can resume production of highly enriched uranium within five days if the nuclear deal it struck with world powers in 2015 is revoked, Iran's atomic chief was quoted by state media as saying on Tuesday. The deal that Iranian President Hassan Rouhani championed with the United States, Russia, China and three European powers led to the lifting of most sanctions against Tehran in return for curbs on its nuclear program.

Rouhani has intensified efforts to protect the deal, also known by its acronym JCPOA, against Washington's return to an aggressive Iran policy, after U.S. President Donald Trump approved new sanctions on Tehran. Rouhani warned last week that Iran could abandon the nuclear agreement "within hours" if the United States imposes any more new sanctions.

"The president's warning was not baseless," Head of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, Ali Akbar Salehi said on Tuesday. "If we decide, we can reach 20 percent

(uranium) enrichment within five days in Fordow (underground nuclear plant)," he added.

However, Salehi who was reappointed this month as vice president and the head of the Atomic Energy Organization, said his main priority would be to protect the JCPOA.

Following the nuclear deal, Iran drastically reduced the number of centrifuges - machines that enrich uranium - installed at Fordow, and kept just over 1,000 there for research purposes.

The JCPOA states that no enrichment is permitted at Fordow for 15 years.

Uranium enriched to a high level can be used to make an atomic bomb. Iran says its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes. The U.S. Treasury imposed sanctions on six Iranian firms in late July for their role in the development of a ballistic missile program after Tehran launched a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit.

Trump also signed in August a U.S. Senate bill that imposed sanctions on Iran, Russia, and North Korea. (Reuters)

Uzbekistan, India Mull Prospects of Co-Op

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov and Indian Minister of State for External Affairs Mobashar Jawed Akbar discussed prospects of bilateral cooperation, said the Uzbek Foreign Ministry's press service on Tuesday.

An Uzbek delegation led by Minister Kamilov is on an official visit in India.

Current state and prospects of the Uzbek-Indian dialogue, topical international and regional issues were discussed during the negotiations, says the message.

According to the message, the parties noted

with satisfaction the positive dynamics in interstate relations, which were boosted by a high-level bilateral meeting during the June meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Meanwhile, Uzbekistan and India pay special attention to the strengthening of mutually beneficial relations in trade, economic and investment spheres.

During the meeting, the two sides also exchanged views on development of cooperation within the UN, SCO and other international organizations. (Trend)