

G-7 Summit in France a Test of Unity Among World Leaders

BIARRITZ, France — Efforts to salvage consensus among the G-7 rich democracies frayed Saturday in the face of U.S. President Donald Trump's unpredictable America-first approach even before the official start of the summit in southern France.

European Council President Donald Tusk said the three-day summit in the seaside resort of Biarritz would be "a difficult test of the unity and solidarity of the free world and its leaders" and that "this may be the last moment to restore our political community."

Even as Tusk, who presides over the council of leaders of the 28-member European Union, said the last thing the



bloc wanted was a trade dispute with the United States and called for "an end to trade wars," he promised to retaliate against U.S. products if

Trump carries through on a threat to impose tariffs on French wine.

Trump made the threat in response to a pro-

posed French tax on internet companies.

French President Emmanuel Macron, who is hosting the summit beginning later Saturday, has made clear that he has little expectation that Trump will join any statement on fighting climate change even as the issue shot to the top of the agenda with the widespread fires in the Amazon. He already rejected Trump's request to let Russia rejoin the group five years after being expelled over its seizure of Crimea. And he is trying to hold together the European line on the Iran nuclear deal over U.S. objections.

The two were meeting Saturday for lunch. In a nationally ... (More on P4)...(8)

Kazakhstan to Further Develop Artificial Intelligence Technologies

NUR-SULTAN - Kazakhstan should take large-scale and systemic measures in support of artificial intelligence, noted First President of Kazakhstan - Elbasy Nursultan Nazarbayev, Trend reports with reference to the press office of the prime minister of Kazakhstan.

Member of the Nur Otan party, Chairman of the Board of the National Scientific Center JSC Yuri Pya quoted Nazarbayev at the press conference at the government, dur-

ing which he told how the tasks assigned by Nazarbayev are being implemented.

"The First President paid great attention to the development and implementation of technology and high intelligence. Technology has embedded in our lives," Pya said.

He reminded that on Dec. 15, 2018, the first artificial heart implanting surgery in the world and wireless energy transfer was performed in Kazakhstan. "The ... (More on P4)...(13)

North Korea Fires Two Short-Range Ballistic Missiles into Sea of Japan, US Official Says

PYONGYANG - North Korea fired two short-range ballistic missiles into the Sea of Japan, a U.S. official confirmed to Fox News Friday, just over a week after the secretive regime tested a "new weapon" with multiple projectile launches.

The North had been expected to halt weapons tests because the 10-day U.S.-South Korean drills, which it views as an invasion rehearsal, ended earlier this week. "North Korea launched unidentified projectiles

twice this morning from Sunduk area, south of Hamkyeng province to the east sea Saturday," South Korean military officials said in a statement. "Our military is closely monitoring the situation in case of additional launches while maintaining a readiness posture."

South Korea's presidential office said it'll hold an unscheduled meeting to discuss the North Korean launches. The missile launch comes a day after South Korea pulled out of the Gen-



eral Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA), a key intelligence-sharing pact with Japan, stating that it no longer meets Seoul's "national interests" to do so, according to reports by The Japan Times. ... (More on P4)...(9)

75 Years Later, US World War II Veterans Say: Never Forget



PARIS — Seventy-five years ago, they helped free Europe from the Nazis. This weekend, U.S. veterans are back in Paris to celebrate, and

remember what happened back then, so that it doesn't happen again. "The veterans, all the veterans of World War II, I think we saved the world," said Harold Angle, who came to France with the U.S. 28th Infantry Division in 1944, and recounted his experiences to The Associated Press in Paris. "To be under the domination of a dictatorship like the Hitler regime and some of the terrible, terrible things that they did. "When you talk about taking little kids out on

a firing range and shooting them for target practice..." Emotion choked his voice. "I can't imagine anybody doing things like that. So I think we really did save the world. The guy had to be stopped." Now 96, he's among Allied veterans, French resistance fighters and others taking part in ceremonies Saturday and Sunday marking the 75th anniversary of the military operation that liberated Paris from Nazi occupation. Angle... (More on P4)...(10)

Iraqi Forces Launch 4th Phase of Major Anti-IS Offensive in Western Iraq

BAGHDAD - Iraqi security forces on Saturday launched the fourth phase of a major offensive to hunt down remnants of Islamic State (IS) militants in the desert of Iraq's western province of Anbar, the Iraqi military said. A statement by the media office of the Joint Operations Command (JOC) said that under the direction of Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, who is also the commander-in-chief of the Iraqi forces, the troops at dawn

started the fourth phase of the offensive dubbed "Victory Will" to clear Anbar's desert and other areas in the province from IS remnants.

A joint force from the Iraqi army, police, and paramilitary Hashd Shaabi units carried out the operation with air support from the Iraqi and the U.S.-led coalition aircraft, the JOC statement said. The result of the fourth phase of the offensive is to be announced later ... (More on P4)...(14)

Lebanon Capable of Overcoming Economic, Financial Crisis: President

BEIRUT - Lebanese President Michel Aoun said on Saturday that Lebanon will be capable of getting out of its current economic and financial crisis, Lebanese presidency's website reported.

"We are working to get over this crisis in cooperation with all parties by adopting an economic vision that aims at activating all productive sectors," Aoun said. He added that Lebanon will start oil and gas exploration soon which he hopes will lead to positive findings. "We will also be able to provide Lebanon with sufficient electricity by the middle of next year," the president said. (Xinhua)

Russian Capsule Carrying Robot Fails Space Station Docking

MOSCOW — A Russian space capsule carrying a humanoid robot has failed to dock as planned with the International Space Station.

A statement from the Russian space agency Roscosmos said the failure to dock on Saturday was because of problems in the docking system. It said the space station itself and the six-person crew are safe.

Vladimir Solovoyev, flight director for the Russian segment of the ISS, said a new docking attempt would be made Monday.

The capsule was launched Thursday as part of tests of a new rocket that is expected to replace the Soyuz-FG next year. It is carrying a robot called Fedor, which will perform two weeks of tests aboard the space station. Solovoyev said the robot had not been taught how to manually conduct a docking. (AP)

Former Indian Finance Minister Arun Jaitley Dies Aged 66

NEW DELHI - Arun Jaitley, the former Indian finance minister and one of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's closest associates, died in hospital on Saturday, nearly two weeks after he was admitted following breathing difficulties, officials said.

Jaitley, 66, a senior leader of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), stepped down as finance minister in January due to ill health, just months before elections that returned Modi's Hindu nationalists to power.

"With the demise of Arun Jaitley Ji, I have lost a valued friend,



whom I have had the honor of knowing for decades," Modi said on Twitter. "His insight on issues and nuanced understanding of matters had very few parallels." Jaitley was admitted to All India Institute of Medical Sciences in

New Delhi on Aug. 9. A diabetic, his health had worsened after he underwent a kidney transplant in May last year. He also had to skip the presentation of the interim budget in February when he was in ... (More on P4)...(11)

NASA Astronaut Accused of Hacking Ex-Spouse's Bank Account from Space

In a highly unexpected example of what it's now possible to do in space, a NASA astronaut has been accused of breaking into her ex-spouse's bank accounts while she was on board the International Space Station.

The bizarre accusation was made against decorated NASA astronaut Anne McClain, who is embroiled in a bitter divorce battle with her former partner Summer Worden.

Worden's suspicions were raised when she noticed that her bank account was accessed without her

permission from a NASA-affiliated computer network. After doing some further digging, the former Air Force intelligence officer accused McClain of breaking into her bank accounts while she was on board the ISS.

Worden told Houston news outlet KPRC that USAA Bank gave evidence to her attorneys that McClain had accessed her accounts. "I was shocked and appalled at the audacity by her to think that she could get away with that, and I was very disheartened that I couldn't ... (More on P4)...(12)

Does Johnson Want to be Remembered as 'Mr. No Deal'? EU's Tusk Hopes Not

BIARRITZ, France - European Council President Donald Tusk said on Saturday he would not cooperate with Britain on an exit from the EU without a withdrawal agreement



and said he hoped new prime minister Boris Johnson did not want to be remembered as "Mr. No Deal". Tusk told reporters in Biarritz that he would be willing to hear ideas from Johnson on how to avoid a no-deal Brexit when the two men meet on Sunday on the sidelines of a G7 summit in the French seaside resort.

"The one thing I will not cooperate on is no deal. And I still hope that PM Johnson will not like to go down in history as Mr. No Deal," said Tusk, who leads the political direction of the 28-nation European Union.

"We are willing to listen to ideas that are operational, realistic, and acceptable to all Member States, including Ireland, if and when the UK government is ready to put them on the table," he added.

Three years ... (More on P4)...(15)

Neighbor News

Iran Test-Fires New Missile amid Boost of Deterrence Power: IRGC Chief

TEHRAN - The chief commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) says that Iran has test-fired a new missile.

"Our country is always the arena for testing a variety of defense and strategic systems and these are non-stop movements towards the growth of our deterrence power," Major General Hossein Salami said on Saturday. "And yesterday was one of the successful days for this nation," he added without providing any further details about the missile launch.

Salami's remarks came a day after Iranian Deputy Defense Minister General Qassem Taqizadeh said that Iran possesses "very accurate missiles

which we have not publicized".

"We manufacture missiles limited to [what Iran has test-fired a new missile] threats, and for now, we know that they are within 1800 km of us. We have, however, increased their precision. Long gone is the time when we were making Shahab 1 missiles," he said.

The Shahab 1 missile is among Iran's first indigenously-made missiles, laying the foundation of Iran's long-range missile program.

Detailing Iran's doctrine of deterrence, Taqizadeh said, "The Americans know well that we don't have to go to New York and confront them." (Press TV)

Qureshi Discusses 'Extremely Alarming' Situation in IOK with Japanese, Maldivian Counterparts

ISLAMABAD - Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Friday held telephonic conversations with his Japanese and Maldivian counterparts Taro Kono and Abdulla Shahid, respectively, to discuss the 'extremely alarming' situation amid India's 19-day long lockdown of Occupied Jammu and Kashmir.

Qureshi briefed them on illegal and unilateral actions of India to alter the disputed status of Jammu and Kashmir, which was in contravention of the international laws and UNSC resolutions, according to a Foreign Office statement.

The foreign minister maintained that the steps taken by India in the occupied valley entailed a grave risk for peace and security in the region. He also apprised his counterparts of the continuously deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in IOK, including severe shortage of food and lifesaving medicines and a blanket communications blackout.

Qureshi said that an international organisation Genocide Watch had issued a "Genocide Alert" for Indian Occupied Kashmir. He said the situation in the occupied valley was extremely alarming, adding that the presence of over 900,000 Indian troops in the valley is a proof that New Delhi wants to perpetrate 'blood-bath' there. (Agencies)

EBRD to Support Climate-Resilient Rehabilitation of Tajik Hydropower Plant

DUSHANBE - A ceremony to mark the start of work was held today at Tajikistan's Qirokum hydropower plant (QHPP), the \$196 million financing package of which was organized by the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) to complete the climate-resilient rehabilitation of QHPP to help Tajikistan improve its electricity supply, Trend reports with reference to the press office EBRD.

The work is the culmination of an investment program that began in 2014, with financing provided by the EBRD, the European Investment Bank (EIB), the

Green Climate Fund (GCF), the Climate Investment Funds' Pilot Program for Climate Resilience, Austria and the United Kingdom. The government of Austria is also funding technical cooperation support. The financing, comprising a \$88 million EBRD loan, a \$37 million EIB loan, a \$50 million GCF loan and grant and a \$21 million Climate Investment Funds loan and grant to the state-owned power utility Barki Tojik, will fund the rehabilitation and modernization of QHPP, a 60-year-old hydropower plant that provides electricity to 500,000 people. (Trend)

Turkmenistan - One of Ukraine's Most Important Trade Partners in Central Asia

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan is one of Ukraine's most important trade partners in the Central Asian region, Trend reports with reference to Ukrainian Ambassador Valentyn Shevalov, whose article was published by the newspaper Neutral Turkmenistan.

The article is dedicated to the 28th anniversary of the independence of Ukraine. Trade and economic relations between Ukraine and Turkmenistan indicate great potential and development prospects, said the diplomat who is completing his mission in Ashgabat. He noted that Ukrainian

companies constructing large-scale infrastructure facilities are successfully operating in Turkmenistan. In addition, students from Turkmenistan hold one of the leading positions in the number of foreign citizens studying at Ukrainian universities. Ukrainian business entities are involved in the construction of large-scale infrastructure facilities of national importance in Turkmenistan including complex engineering communications as well as oil and gas, industrial and transport facilities. (Trend)