

BRICS Youth Expect Summit to Enhance Cooperation in Finance, Trade, Education

XIAMEN - As the 2017 BRICS summit draws close, young people from Russia, Brazil, India and South Africa who study or work here are expecting the summit to promote enhanced cooperation in finance, trade, education, and beyond between BRICS countries.

The 9th annual summit of the bloc, scheduled for Sept. 3-5 in Xiamen City of southeast China's Fujian Province, is expected to provide more opportunities for emerging economies and injecting impetus into economic globalization.

Anait Agadzhanian from Russia, who majors in finance, will graduate from Xiamen University this year. She plans to find a job in China because she thinks she



has more opportunities here. Agadzhanian said she believes the long-time good relationship between China and Russia will reach a new level within the BRICS framework, in areas such as financial cooperation. The two countries have done some work on the integration of banks within the BRICS framework and help to raise funds for developing countries, she noted, adding that a lot more need to be done. "That will present lots of opportunities for me particularly," she said, noting that she hopes to facilitate cooperation between Chinese and Russian banks and governmental organizations with her bilingual skills. (Xinhua)

UK Opposition Labour Backs Soft Brexit, Putting Pressure on May

LONDON - The opposition Labour Party has said it would keep Britain in the European single market and customs union for a transitional period after Brexit, offering an alternative to the government line after months of uncertainty over Labour's position. Labour wanted to avoid a damaging "cliff edge" for Britain's economy that might be caused by an abrupt separation in less than two years' time. Senior ministers in Prime Minister Theresa May's Conservative government have ruled

out remaining in the single market and customs union during any transitional phase following Brexit. Stammer said following EU rules for a period would allow goods and services to continue to flow between the EU and Britain without tariffs, customs checks or additional red tape. Labour recognized that a transitional deal would not provide long-term certainty or resolve the question of migration, one of the key issues for voters in the referendum in 2016. (Reuters)

Europe, Africa Ministers Meet on Migration

PARIS - European Union funding is being looked at as a potential tool for ending the dependence of some local economies in Africa on migrant trafficking. Italy's foreign ministry hosted a meeting of interior ministers from Italy, Libya, Chad, Niger and Mali on Monday to discuss strategies for foiling the human traffickers who have sent hundreds of thousands of migrants toward Europe. The migrants are often put on unseaworthy vessels and are

brought to Italy when they are rescued at sea. But unlike refugees, economic migrants aren't eligible for asylum. The ministers said in a statement that the United Nations refugee and migrant agencies need to help Niger and Chad set up migrant reception centers since those countries lie along



trafficking routes. They also say the agencies need to improve existing reception centers in Libya, where some migrants have reported being beaten, malnourished and tortured. (AP)

Britain to Drive ahead Special Partnership with EU



LONDON - Brexit Secretary David Davis will meet the European Union's chief negotiator Michel Barnier late Monday to outline a deep and special partnership Britain

wants with the EU, and drive ahead a deal for the best interests of both sides. Davis will reiterate his call for a deal that works in the best interests of both the EU and Britain when he

meets Barnier, Davis's office said ahead of the third round of negotiations about Britain's exit from the EU, which will start late Monday. He would stress that Britain's firm goal remains to secure a mutually beneficial agreement that works for people and businesses across Europe, the office said. This week's four-day technical talks will build on the July round and the significant number of papers Britain has recently published covering both withdrawal and the British government's vision for the deep

and special partnership with the remaining 27 EU member states. "The focus will be to consolidate areas of agreement and work through complex technical issues," said a spokesman at the Department for Exiting the European Union. According to Davis's office, since the last round of talks, the British government has published a large number of papers covering important issues related to Britain's withdrawal and vision for a deep and special partnership with the EU. (Xinhua)

S. Korea to Seek Diplomatic Room for Denuclearization on Korean Peninsula

SEOUL - South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said on Monday that her country could seek diplomatic room for a denuclearized Korean Peninsula if the peninsula's situations are managed well by mid-October. The South Korean top diplomat told a press conference that if situations are managed well on the major occasions in October, room would be created to run diplomacy for denuclearization dialogue. Major anniversaries

would fall in October, including the 10th anniversary of the Oct. 4 joint declaration, the outcome of a 2007 inter-Korean summit meeting between late South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and late DPRK leader Kim Jong Il, father of the current leader Kim Jong Un. Kang said South Korea would patiently make efforts to ease tensions on the peninsula and resolve humanitarian issues between the two sides, though Pyongyang had yet to respond to it. (Xinhua)

Sudan has no Agenda in Libya but to Achieve its Unity, Security: Al-Bashir

KHARTOUM - Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir on Sunday said his country has no agenda in Libya other than achieving Libya's unity, security and stability together with unity of its people. Al-Bashir made the remarks when speaking at a press conference following joint talks with Fayez al-Sarraj, the head of Libya's UN-backed government, in Khartoum Sunday. "Sudan directly gets affected by the situations in Libya and by the state of instability there. We pay a high bill to combat illegal immigration, human trafficking and cross-border crimes that exploit the vacuum happening in Libya," said al-Bashir at the press conference. "We do not have any agenda in Libya other than achieving unity of Libya, stability of Libya, security of Libya and unity of the Libyan people," he noted. Al-Sarraj, for his part, speaking at the press conference, said that "our visit to Sudan comes within the framework of consultation with brotherly countries." "We spoke about securing the joint border and supporting the bilateral cooperation between the two countries. Sudan is an important neighbor and we will work to build a better relationship," said al-Sarraj. He reiterated the ability of Libya's internationally-backed government to find a solution for the current crisis in Libya, saying "the current crisis will be solved by achieving national reconciliation that ends the state of division and unites the institutions of the country." Al-Sarraj arrived in Khartoum on Sunday on an official one-day visit, his first to Sudan. (Xinhua)

UN Chief Vows to Combat Anti-Semitism and Racism

JERUSALEM - The UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres visited Jerusalem's Holocaust memorial museum on Monday, pledging commitment to combating anti-Semitism and racism. Guterres laid a wreath in Yad Vashem, Israel's official Holocaust museum and signed the guestbook. "As UN Secretary-General, I'm committed to combating anti-Semitism," he said. "I wish to praise every person who works and preserves this exceptional museum," he added.



Guterres landed in the Ben Gurion Airport outside Tel Aviv on Sunday night for a three-day visit, seeking to find ways to revive the peace talks between Israel and the Palestinians. His itinerary includes

meetings with Israel's President Reuven Rivlin and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu before he will travel to the West Bank city of Ramallah to meet Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas. (Xinhua)

China, Saudi Arabia Push Forward Nuclear Energy Cooperation

BEIJING - China and Saudi Arabia have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to push forward cooperation on nuclear energy, China's top state assets regulator said Monday. The two sides will speed up uranium and thorium exploration in Saudi Arabia to meet the country's demand for radioactive resources, according to the agreement between China National Nuclear Corporation (CNNC) and Saudi Geological Survey. Under a previous MOU signed in March this year, the CNNC has already completed a two-month field geological survey in nine Saudi Arabian re-

gions and targeted a number of areas for next-stage development, said the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission (SASAC). Saudi Arabia has launched a nuclear development plan and is seeking international partners to build its nuclear industry and improve the country's energy mix to ease its dependence on oil and gas in power generation. The CNNC has been working closely with Saudi Arabian authorities and progress has been made in sectors such as uranium resources, nuclear fuel recycling and nuclear-powered water desalination, the SASAC said. (Xinhua)

Merkel Defends Libyan Coast Guard's Treatment of Refugees

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel (CDU) has rejected claims on Sunday night that the Libyan coast guard was bringing the migrants and refugees it intercepted to inhumane detention centers in the country. "The Libyan coast guard delivers these [refugees and migrants] to international organizations," Merkel told tv channel ZDF in the course of her "Summer Interview." According to the chancellor, the goal was to create humane conditions in Libya which would require annual funding of around 150 million euros (179 million U.S. dollars). "We currently spend around 50 million, which is still sufficient for the moment, but we would also be willing to give more," she said. So far, between 12,000 and 15,000 individuals have been intercepted at sea by the Libyan coast guard and brought back to shore. The new policy was outlined at a recent conference in Berlin between Merkel, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi and Director General of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) William Lacy Swing. Libya constituted a focal point of talks, given the country's emergence as the key transit route for African migrants towards Europe. Speaking to ZDF, Merkel sought to clarify the purpose of "migration partnerships" with African countries such as Libya. Contrary to some reports, the German government did not envision making decisions on asylum applications locally and posting officials of the Federal Office for Migration and Refugees (Bamf) abroad towards this end. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Xi Stresses Efforts to Build Ecological Civilization

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping has stressed ongoing efforts in building an ecological civilization by adhering to green development concepts. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission, made the remarks in an instruction on the achievements of a forest farm in the country's northern Hebei Province. Efforts to pursue green development and an ecological civilization should be made generation by generation to create harmony between humans and nature, and leave a better environment for future generations, Xi said. Saihanba is a vast forest covering nearly 75,000 hectares. It was a piece of barren land 55 years ago, but decades of hard work have turned it into an important ecological shield for Beijing and Tianjin. The development of Saihanba is the result of the persistent effort and dedication of forestry workers, and has set a great example in China's pursuit of ecological progress, Xi said. Xi's instruction was conveyed by Liu Qibao, a member of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee and head of the Publicity Department of the CPC Central Committee, at a meeting Monday. (Xinhua)

Senior U.S. Diplomat Postpones Pakistan Visit Amid Tensions

ISLAMABAD - A top U.S. diplomat in charge of South Asia affairs has postponed the planned visit to Pakistan amid bilateral tensions over U.S. President Donald Trump's new strategy for Afghanistan and South Asia. Pakistani officials and the U.S. embassy in Islamabad confirmed the postponement of the visit by U.S. Acting Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Alice Wells scheduled at the weekend. At the request of the government of Pakistan, the visit has been postponed until a mutually convenient time, the U.S. embassy told local media. Tensions between the two countries rises after Trump unveiled his South Asian and Afghanistan policies in which he warned that his administration can no longer be silent about "Pakistan's safe havens for terrorist organizations, the Taliban, and other groups that pose a threat to the region and beyond. Pakistan has much to gain from partnering with our effort in Afghanistan. It has much to lose by continuing to harbor criminals and terrorists." In a response, Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif postponed his visit to Washington in the wake of Trump's serious accusations. Pakistani political leaders, including opposition parties, have showed rare unity against the new U.S. policies and said the country would not surrender to any threats. (Xinhua)

Iran Calls for P5+1 Meeting to Address U.S. Policy over Nuclear Deal

TEHRAN - Iran plans to call for a meeting of major world powers to address the U.S. policy toward Iran's nuclear deal, Tehran Times daily reported on Monday. Iran is considering to call for a meeting of the foreign ministers of six major world powers to address the U.S. administration's policy toward Iran's international nuclear deal, Tehran Times daily quoted Iran's atomic chief as saying. "Our foreign minister is likely to take action over convening a meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran and P5+1 group, namely, the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany," said Ali Akbar Salehi, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly summit in New York, to be held on Sept. 12-25. The foreign minister recently wrote a letter to the director general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the European Union foreign policy chief, to indicate "the harassing acts of Americans" vis-a-vis the nuclear deal, Salehi said. On Thursday, Nikki Haley, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, urged the IAEA to use all the authorities to monitor Iran's nuclear program, including Iran's military sites. Iran has declared that they will not allow access to military sites. (Xinhua)

Turkmenistan Ratifies Agreements with Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan's parliament has adopted draft resolutions "On ratification of the Strategic Cooperation Agreement between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan", "On Ratification of the Strategic Cooperation Treaty between Turkmenistan and the Republic of Kazakhstan", said the Turkmen government in a message. Turkmenistan and neighboring countries, which have impressive reserves of hydrocarbon resources, stand for diversification of energy flows. The implement-

ation of the project on construction of the Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Kazakhstan-China gas pipeline, commissioned in 2009, is a good example for that. Ashgabat is also ready to intensify cooperation within the project on supply of electricity from Central to South Asia along the route Turkmenistan-Uzbekistan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan. Moreover, a project on construction of transnational railway route Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan-Iran was completed in December 2014. (Trend)