

# EU Warns US against Undermining Mideast Peace

JERUSALEM — The European Union's foreign policy chief is subtly warning the United States against moves that would undermine Mideast peace.

Federica Mogherini is meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson in Brussels. She's calling for a "meaningful peace process" leading to a two-state solution for Israelis and Palestinians.

Mogherini says the EU believes that "any action that would undermine this effort must be absolutely avoided." She appeared to be referring to President Donald Trump's deliberations about moving the U.S. Embassy in



Israel to contested Jerusalem. Mogherini says the EU will discuss the peace issue with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Monday and early next year with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas.

The chief of the Arab League is warning the United States not to take any measures that would change Jerusalem's current legal and political status.

Ahmed Aboul-Gheit spoke on Tuesday during a meeting in Cairo of Arab League representatives gathered to discuss President Donald Trump's possible recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. (AP)

## New Talks Planned to Rescue Brexit Deal after Negotiations Stumble

LONDON - Emergency talks are to take place between British Prime Minister Theresa May's government and the Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) after an expected agreement on Brexit negotiations collapsed Monday.

The refusal of the DUP to accept controversial cross-border proposals between Northern Ireland and the Irish republic were blamed by media on either side of the Irish Sea for crucial negotiations in Brussels coming to a halt. May spent the day in Brussels confident that Britain and the

EU would make enough progress on outstanding issues relating to future relationships between both sides after Britain leaves the bloc. Media reports said talks over the border issue were expected in the next few days in the hope of finding a way forward ahead of next week's crucial meeting of the European Council. The DUP has insisted that it will only agree to a deal that applies to the whole of the UK, including Northern Ireland, which will eventually form the only EU border within the British Isles. (Xinhua)

## Germans See Trump as Bigger Problem than North Korea or Russia

BERLIN - Germans see U.S. President Donald Trump as a bigger challenge for German foreign policy than authoritarian leaders in North Korea, Russia or Turkey, according to a survey by the Kober Foundation.

Topping the list of foreign policy concerns were refugees, with 26 percent of respondents worried about Germany's ability to cope with inflows of asylum seekers.

Relations with Trump and the United States ranked second, with 19 percent describing them as a

major challenge, followed by Turkey at 17 percent, North Korea at 10 percent and Russia at 8 percent.

Since entering the White House in January, Trump has unsettled Germans by pulling out of the Paris climate accord, refusing to certify an international agreement on Iran's nuclear programme and criticizing Germany's trade surplus and its contributions to the NATO military alliance. Trump's



actions prompted the usually cautious German Chancellor Angela Merkel to say earlier this year that Berlin may not be able to rely on the United States in the future. She also urged Europe to take its fate into its own hands. (Reuters)

## Syria Peace Talks Resume in Geneva, without Government Delegation



DAMASCUS - UN-backed peace talks for war-ravaged Syria were set to resume in Geneva Tuesday, but without Syrian government negotiators, who sources said

have yet to determine if they will return. "The delegation will not leave today or tomorrow for Geneva, and the final decision (on attending) has not been taken yet," a

source close to the government delegation told AFP on Tuesday.

An eighth round of peace talks aimed at ending Syria's nearly seven-year war began in Geneva last week.

UN Syria envoy Staffan de Mistura announced shortly after the talks began that they would be extended by two weeks.

Negotiations were paused over the weekend, but both sides were expected to return to Geneva to resume discussions on Tuesday. A UN spokeswoman said the talks would in-

deed resume Tuesday as planned. "The Special Envoy has announced last week a recess. This recess (ends) today," Alessandra Vellucci told reporters in Geneva. However, the Al-Watan newspaper, which is close to the government, said the regime's delegation was in Damascus and was not expected to leave either Tuesday or Wednesday.

The daily said the invitation to return to the talks "is still being studied by the Syrian leadership". (AFP)

## 25 Airstrikes Hit Yemen Capital Overnight: UN

SANAA, Yemen — A top U.N. humanitarian aid official says Yemen's capital came under at least 25 airstrikes overnight, although fighting has now subsided after a five-day wave of deadly violence.

Jamie McGoldrick of U.N. aid agency OCHA says civilians in Sanaa are "emerging from their houses after five days being locked down, basically prisoners," to seek safety, medical care, fresh water and other survival needs. He says that "at the same time, people are bracing themselves for more." McGoldrick said aid providers like

OCHA were "locked down in basements or in compounds" during the fighting. He cited accounts of snipers firing upon ambulances, pregnant women with health issues not able to go to hospitals, and armored vehicles roaming the streets over the five-day span. The International Committee of the Red Cross says that as many as 234 people have been killed in Yemen's capital, Sanaa, in street fighting this month between the country's Shiite rebels and the supporters of the slain former president, Ali Abdullah Saleh. (AP)

## Qatar Plays "Leading" Role in Regional Conflict Mediation: Envoy

DOHA - A Qatari envoy said his country is playing a "leading" role in mediation efforts in the regional and international conflicts, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported Tuesday. The remarks were made by Mutlaq bin Majed al-Qahtani, the special envoy of Qatar's Foreign Minister for Counterterrorism and Mediation of Conflict Resolution, at a forum organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' Diplomatic Institute on Monday evening. "Qatar focuses its foreign policies on preventive diplomacy and the prevention of conflict and its outbreak, and plays a main and leading role in mediation to resolve conflicts," al-Qahtani said. He also highlighted Qatar's efforts in providing educational opportunities to more than 7 million children in more than 47 countries. (Xinhua)

## Britain Confident of Brexit Deal as May Scrambles to Win over Northern Irish Kingmakers

LONDON - Britain said it was a confident of a deal on Brexit just hours after a tentative agreement with the European Union over the Irish border was dashed by Prime Minister Theresa May's kingmakers in Belfast. After a tumultuous day which saw a choreographed attempt to showcase the progress of Brexit talks thwarted at the last minute, May will try to gauge on Tuesday what her supporters in Northern Ireland's Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) might accept. "We're very confident that we will be able to move this forward," finance minister Philip Hammond said as he arrived for a meeting with EU counterparts in Brussels. (Reuters)

## France Concerned over Possible U.S. Unilateral Decision about Jerusalem

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Monday spoke to U.S. counterpart Donald Trump over the phone and expressed concern over possible U.S. unilateral decision about Jerusalem, the Elysee palace said in a statement.

Macron "expressed his concern over the possibility that the United States unilaterally recognize Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel" to Trump, according to the statement. The status of Jerusalem, Macron said, will have to be settled in the framework of peace talks between Israel and Palestine. The peace negotiations aimed in par-



ticular at the establishment of two states, Israel and Palestine, living side by side in peace and security with Jerusalem as capital, it said. The two leaders have agreed to talk to each other again soon about this issue. U.S. media had reported that U.S. President Donald Trump was considering acknowledging

Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and might announce that on Wednesday. Israel has controlled the western part of Jerusalem since its inception in 1948. In 1967, after the Mideast war, Israel captured the eastern part of Jerusalem from Jordan and declared both parts its united capital. (Xinhua)

## Turkey Could Break Off Ties with Israel over Jerusalem: Erdogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan said on Tuesday Turkey could go as far as breaking off diplomatic ties with Israel if the United States formally recognizes Jerusalem as the Israeli capital, a move he said would be a "red line" for Muslims. U.S. officials have said Trump is likely to give a speech on Wednesday unilaterally recognizing Jerusalem as Israel's capital, a step that would break with decades of U.S. policy and could fuel violence in the Middle East. Israel captured Arab East Jerusalem in the 1967 Middle

East war. It later annexed it, declaring the whole of the city as its capital, a move not recognized internationally. Palestinians want Jerusalem as the capital of their future state. "I am saddened by the reports that the U.S. is getting ready to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital," Erdogan said. "Mr. Trump, Jerusalem is the red line of Muslims. It is a violation of international law to take a decision supporting Israel while Palestinian society's wounds are still bleeding," he told a parliamentary meeting of his ruling AK Party. (Reuters)

## Neighbor News

### Constructive Role in 16+1, SCO Show China as Responsible Power

BEIJING - China's growing presence in the international arena to foster a community of shared future for mankind was further evidenced recently by two fruitful meetings of leaders of China, Central and Eastern European countries (CEEC) and member countries of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has just concluded a week-long visit to Budapest in Hungary and Sochi in Russia, where he reached important consensus and discussed concrete projects during meetings with his counterparts at

the annual China-CEEC and SCO gatherings.

Both of these cooperation mechanisms bear a strong Chinese imprint and have witnessed greater contributions over the years by China to promote win-win cooperation, a further testimony to China's readiness to foster a community of common destiny in the world.

The 16+1 cooperation mechanism took root in the China-CEEC Economic and Trade Forum in Budapest in 2011, a precursor to the first China-CEEC Leaders' Meeting in Warsaw in 2012, which marked the founding of the mechanism. (Xinhua)

### Pakistani Army Chief Tells Mattis Terrorists' Safe Havens Eliminated

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Army Chief Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa has told U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis that Pakistan has eliminated safe havens from Pakistan's soil. Mattis met the army chief in his day-long visit in the army headquarters in Rawalpindi late on Monday, an army statement said, adding that the meeting focused on regional security with particular emphasis on Afghanistan as well as other matters of mutual interest.

The army chief said Pakistan has done much more than its due share despite capacity constraints in anti-terror fight but shall remain committed for peace as a responsible member of international commu-

nity. For his part, Mattis expressed his respect for Pakistan Armed Forces and the effective operations undertaken against terrorists, according to the statement.

He also highlighted concerns that a few elements continue to use Pakistan's territory to further their terrorist agenda in Afghanistan. He assured that the U.S. is ready to play its role in addressing Pakistan's legitimate concerns, saying that his aim is not to make demands but find common grounds to work together. Both sides agreed to work towards specific and sustained actions on each other's concerns, the military said. (Xinhua)

### EU Calls on US to Stick to Iran Nuclear Deal

BRUSSELS - The European Union's top diplomat says the United States stepping away from a landmark nuclear deal would be counterproductive and insisted other disputes with Tehran should be tackled otherwise.

Federica Mogherini said Tuesday after a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson that the EU attaches great importance on upholding the agreement, adding that scrapping the deal "would not put us in a better position to discuss all the rest, on the contrary." Under the 2015 accord, Iran curbed its nuclear program in exchange for an easing of international economic sanctions. Tillerson stressed, how-

ever, that "Iran is carrying out a number of other destabilizing activities throughout the region" and called for joint action to counter it.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson says the State Department is "not missing a beat" despite the criticism he's receiving and high rates of vacancies throughout the department. Tillerson is giving his most extensive public comments since news reports last week that the White House was considering a plan to fire him. Tillerson says he gets criticism for leaving key ambassadorships vacant. He's speaking in Brussels, where there is no U.S. ambassador to either Belgium or the European Union. (AP)

### WB Supports Renewable Energy Development in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Tashkent hosts a workshop on renewable energy (RE) policy development jointly organized by the Government of Uzbekistan and the World Bank Group (WBG) in partnership with the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA). The two day event is attended by around 80 representatives of ministries and state agencies, state energy companies, international organizations, expert and academic circles concerned. The event is aimed at supporting the Government's efforts in introduction of RE in the country through discussion of best practices in

development of RE strategy, policy, regulations, institutional measures, modern technologies, and project preparation and implementation adopted around the world, including cases of the Latin American, African and South Asian states. The event also contributes to discussion on development of RE roadmap in Uzbekistan to assist the Government in implementation of the Action Program on Renewable Energy Development for 2017-2021 adopted in May 2017, and also to promote private sector investments in renewable energy development. (Trend)