

France Hosts Climate Change Summit

PARIS - Political leaders and representatives of key international organizations gathered at the "One Planet Summit" in Paris Tuesday to address the planet's "ecological emergency" and accelerate international climate actions. Organized jointly by France, the United Nations and the World Bank, in partnership with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the one-day summit's focus is to explore how public and private finance can innovate to support and accelerate common efforts to fight climate change. During the G20 Summit in Hamburg in July, French President Emmanuel Macron had announced that France would



host an international summit on climate mobilization on Dec. 12, 2017, two years after the adoption of the Paris Agreement. More than 50 speakers, including representatives of nongovernmental organizations, entrepreneurs, investors, government officials, local stakeholders and scientists will take part in four round tables in the morning to identify and implement tangible solutions and mobilize public and private funding to enable large-scale their deployment, especially in the most vulnerable countries. In the afternoon, the summit's three key themes – "Adaptation" "Mitigation" and "Mobilization" – will be discussed. (Xinhua)

EU Official Urges Trump to Join Climate Shift

PARIS – The European Union's top climate and energy official says the global shift to cleaner fuel is "unstoppable" and wants U.S. President Donald Trump's government to join in. Miguel Arias Canete told The Associated Press that extreme weather in the U.S. such as hurricanes and heat waves is a sign that "nobody is spared" from climate change. Responding to Trump's rejection of the Paris climate accord, Canete said "fighting climate change is a global challenge, we

have to do it, all the world together." He spoke Tuesday on the sidelines of a climate summit in Paris, where the EU is announcing several measures to encourage investment in cleaner energies. Canete defended a decision by the European Investment Bank to invest in a pipeline bringing gas from Azerbaijan to southern Europe. He said it was necessary to reduce Europe's dependence on Russian gas, and insisted it wasn't contradicting the EU's climate goals. (AP)

U.S. Move on Jerusalem Destabilizes Mideast: Putin, Erdogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin on Monday warned that the U.S. move on Jerusalem destabilizes the Middle East and will not help resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Speaking at a joint news conference after his meeting with Putin, Erdogan criticized Israel for taking advantage of the U.S. move on Jerusalem as "an opportunity to ramp up oppression and violence against the Palestinians." "It is impossible for any-

one who has a conscience, morality, or value to ignore the killings," the Turkish leader said. He was apparently referring to the deaths of two Palestinians who were killed by Israeli forces in clashes over the weekend in the Palestinian territories during Palestinian protests against Israeli occupation and U.S. President Donald Trump's decision last week to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital. Erdogan added that Turkey and Russia share the same position on the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's



capital, and will keep close cooperation on the issue. "We have seen the same approach on the U.S. Jerusalem move. Both have agreed to continue our contacts in this regard," he said. For his part, Pu-

tin said the U.S. decision to recognize Jerusalem as the Israeli capital did nothing to help solve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, and was destabilizing the situation in the Middle East. (Xinhua)

UNICEF Calls for Making Digital World Safer for Children



UNITED NATIONS - Despite children's massive online presence, but too little is done to protect them from the perils of the digital world and to increase their access to

safe online content, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) said Monday in its annual flagship report. Pointing out that one in three Internet users world-

wide is a child, the agency in its State of the World's Children 2017: Children in a Digital World report, highlights digital divides and explores current debates about the impact of the Internet and social media on children's safety and well-being. "For better and for worse, digital technology is now an irreversible fact of our lives," said UNICEF Executive Director Anthony Lake. "In a digital world, our dual challenge is how to mitigate the harms while maximizing the benefits of the internet for

every child." The report explores the benefits that digital technology can offer the most disadvantaged children, including by increasing their access to information; building skills for the digital workplace; and giving them a platform to connect and communicate their views. "The Internet was designed for adults, but it is increasingly used by children and young people, and digital technology increasingly affects their lives and futures," Lake noted. (Xinhua)

DPRK Lashes out at Japan for Joining Military Drill with US

PYONGYANG - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday lashed out at Japan for strengthening military cooperation with the United States, calling it an anti-DPRK move. The official Rodong Sinmun newspaper said in a commentary that Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe had vowed that Japan would "keep itself on a high alert based on the firm Japan-U.S. alliance" after the DPRK test-fired a new intercontinental ballistic missile late last month. Accusing Tokyo of "building public opinion, reversing black and

white," the commentary said Japan "is motivated by the cunning calculation to catch fish in troubled waters by zealously joining its American master in its anti-DPRK moves." "The ulterior intention of Japan is to become a military giant and attain the re-invasion ambition, persisting in the pro-U.S. policy," it said. The commentary was released after a joint two-day military drill by South Korea, the United States and Japan to track ballistic missiles in waters near the Korean Peninsula and Japan kicked off Monday. (Xinhua)

EU to Toughen Brexit Stance on 'Gangster' Britain: MEPs

STRASBOURG, France - The EU will harden its position on Brexit trade talks after London said it would only pay its divorce bill if it got a deal, leading European parliamentarians said on Tuesday. Guy Verhofstadt, the European Parliament's Brexit coordinator, said EU leaders meeting for a summit this week would now insist on the divorce terms being legally binding. He condemned "unacceptable" comments by Britain's Brexit Minister David Davis in which Davis said a deal struck to seal separation arrangements and open talks on future relations was a "statement of intent" rather than "legally enforceable." "I have seen a hardening of the position of the council (EU leaders), and there will be a hardening position of the parliament," which will vote on a Brexit motion on Wednesday, Verhofstadt told reporters at the parliament in Strasbourg, France. "It's clear that the European Council will be more strict now in saying... we want that these commitments are translated into legal texts before we make progress in the second phase."

Verhofstadt added that Davis's comments were an "own goal" that was "undermining the trust that is necessary in such negotiations." On Sunday, Davis told the BBC Britain would not honour its £35 billion-£39 billion (40-45 billion euros, \$47-52 billion) divorce bill as agreed under last week's deal if it fails to secure a future EU trade agreement when it leaves in March 2019. Davis took a more diplomatic tone on Tuesday, saying it was a "pleasure as ever to speak to my friend Guy Verhofstadt." (AFP)

Bigger Chinese Role in Global Affairs Welcome: UN

UNITED NATIONS - President of the 72nd Session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak said here Monday he welcomed the fact that China is now playing a leading role in the multilateral system and global affairs. Lajcak said in an exclusive interview with Xinhua that China has already occupied a significant position as one of the five Permanent Members of the UN Security Council and has emerged as one of the main contributors to the UN budget and financing for development. China's commitment to



establish a ten-year-long, 1-billion-U.S.-dollar China-UN peace and development fund is particularly helpful, Lajcak said. "I am also heartened by China's pledge to join the new UN Peacekeeping Capability Readiness System (PCRS) and take the lead in setting up a permanent peacekeep-

ing police squad and building a peacekeeping standby force of 8,000 troops," he said. The UN PCRS aims to liaise between UN headquarters and its member states to ensure "readiness and timely deployment of quality peacekeeping capabilities," said the system's overview. (Xinhua)

Macron Seeks Climate Action after U.S. Withdrawal from Paris Accord

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron is urging wealthy countries and global companies to commit more funds to combating global warming and help poorer nations deal with the impact of climate change. The French leader is hosting the "One Planet" summit two years after nearly 200 governments agreed in Paris to end their heavy reliance on fossil fuels and limit further global warming. Macron wants to show that progress toward those hard-fought goals is being

made after President Donald Trump said in June that he was taking the United States out of the pact.

"If we decide not to move and not change our way to produce, to invest, to behave, we will be responsible for billions of victims," Macron told U.S. television channel CBS News in an interview broadcast on Monday night. Though Macron has said that concrete projects with real financing behind them are lacking, no internationally binding commitments will be announced at the summit. (Reuters)

S. Korean Top Diplomat Pushes Visit to Japan this Year

SEOUL - South Korea's top diplomat was pushing her visit to Japan within this year though details were still under discussion with the Japanese side, Seoul's foreign ministry said Tuesday. Foreign Ministry spokesman Noh Kyu-duk told a press briefing that Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha was pushing to visit Japan though detailed schedules were under discussion. Asked about whether Kang will visit Japan within this year, the spokesman said the visit was expected to be made within this year. Kang, who took office in June, already visited China, the United States and Russia, but she had yet to travel to the neighboring country amid the lingering disagreement over the wartime sexual slavery issue. Seoul and Tokyo reached the final and irreversible agreement in December 2015 over the issue on "comfort women," a euphemism for Korean women who were forced into sexual servitude for Japanese military brothels during World War.

Surviving wartime sexual slavery victims in South Korea protested against the agreement reached under the previous South Korean government, as Japan had yet to sincerely apologize for wartime crimes against humanity and refused to acknowledge the Japanese government's legal responsibility for atrocities. South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who was inaugurated in May, said the 2015 agreement was not emotionally acceptable by the general public. (Xinhua)

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China, Britain to Hold Economic, Financial Dialogue

BEIJING - China and Britain will hold their 9th economic and financial dialogue in Beijing from Friday to Saturday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said on Tuesday. Chinese Vice Premier Ma Kai and British Chancellor of the Exchequer Philip Hammond will

co-chair the dialogue, Lu said. The two sides will discuss the macroeconomic situation and policy, trade, investment and industry strategy, financial reform, development of the financial market as well as cooperation under the framework of the Belt and Road Initiative, Lu said. (Xinhua)

Intl Rating Agencies Optimistic about Pakistan's Economic Performance: Sartaj Aziz

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz on Tuesday said the international ratings agencies are optimistic about Pakistan's economic performance and predicting Pakistan to emerge as one of the fast growing economies in the world in upcoming years.

Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Sartaj Aziz expressed these views while addressing a conference on "Redefining prosperity paths in changing global economy: opportunities and challenges for Pakistan" organized by Pakistan Society of Development Economists (PSDE).

Sartaj Aziz said that the Real GDP growth was 5.3% in 2016-17 which is highest in last 9 years due to improvements in energy supply along with security situation, two key bottlenecks which were holding back the performance of the economy. Pakistan's economy has seen noticeable turnaround in last four years as a result of cumulative

impact of macroeconomic and structural reform program. As a result deficit from 8% in 2012-13 to below 5% in 2016-17 and brought inflation to a single digit. He also said that Pakistan successfully executed USD 1 billion five years Sukuk and USD 1.5 billion ten years Eurobond transactions at a profit rate of 5.625% and 6.875% respectively and this reflects the confidence of global investors in Pakistan's economy. In redefining paths for the future Sartaj Aziz said it is important to carefully analyze the dramatic changes that are taking place in the world economy as economic dynamism has shifted from advanced economies to emerging markets. Quoting example of Chinese economy, he said China is re-balancing its economy from manufacturing to services, investments to consumption, from exports to domestic services and this means slower but more sustainable growth path. (Monitoring Desk)

UN Experts do not Confirm Iran Link to Yemen Missiles

TEHRAN - UN experts, who examined the debris from missiles fired from Yemen at Saudi Arabia earlier in the year, have not confirmed that the projectiles were "Iranian-made" as claimed by the Riyadh regime and the US.

The missiles were fired by Yemeni Houthi fighters at the Saudi capital on July 22 and November 4 in retaliation for Riyadh's deadly raids against the country.

United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said in a confidential report obtained by AFP on Monday that the world body's team, which visited Riyadh last month to scrutinize the alleged evidence, had

not yet established a link between them and the Islamic Republic. Saudi Arabia, which accuses Iran of arming Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement against the kingdom, claims the missiles, which it says were fired at its capital city, had been supplied to Yemeni forces by Iran.

Following the first missile launch, Riyadh also angered the international community and human rights groups by tightening the already crippling siege against Yemen. Tehran has invariably dismissed having ever armed the movement and any accusation of regional interference for that matter. (Presstv)

Turkmen-Russian Partnership is of Strategic Nature: Foreign Ministry

ASHGABAT - Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov has met with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Alexander Pankin in Ashgabat, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message.

The participants of the meeting noted that the Turkmen-Russian partnership is of strategic nature, and this is confirmed by regular meetings and negotiations at the highest level, including within major events of international significance.

During the conversation, the sides made proposals regarding further development of bilateral cooperation. The parties paid special attention to

the implementation of the agreements at a high level.

"The sides noted the progressive and constructive nature of cooperation between the countries, based on the principles of strategic partnership, mutual understanding and trust," the message said. In the context of development of trade and economic relations, an important role is assigned to the Turkmen-Russian intergovernmental commission on economic cooperation, according to the message. The parties paid special attention to cooperation in the energy and communication spheres. (Trend)