

Trump Says America Will 'Stand up for Ourselves'

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump says a new era of competition is underway and that the U.S. will follow his 2016 campaign doctrine of "America First." He said Monday that "America is in the game, and America is going to win." Trump's strategy focuses on protecting the homeland, including building a wall on the U.S. Southern border and taking other steps on immigration. He also called for promoting American prosperity, demonstrating peace through strength and advancing American influence. He said the U.S. will cooperate with other countries "in a manner that always protects



our national interests." Trump also said that the United States "will stand up for ourselves and our country like we have never stood up before." He called for competing "with every instrument of our national power." President Donald Trump says his new national security strategy puts "America First." In a forward accompanying the strategy — unveiled Monday — Trump says the United States faces "an extraordinarily dangerous world." He says he is prioritizing American citizens and that "America is leading again on the world stage." (AP)

China, Russia Slam US 'Imperialist' and 'Cold War Mentality'

BEIJING — China and Russia on Tuesday decried President Donald Trump's first National Security Strategy — which pilloried both nations as challengers to US power — as a "Cold War mentality" with an "imperialist character". The two global powerhouses hit back hours after the Trump administration unveiled its approach to the world with biting language framing Beijing and Moscow as global competitors. "We urge the United States to stop intention-

ally distorting China's strategic intentions and to abandon outdated notions such as the Cold War mentality and zero-sum game, otherwise it will only harm itself or others," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said. Moscow issued its own denunciation moments later. "The imperialist character of this document is obvious, as is the refusal to renounce a unipolar world, an insistent refusal," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. (AFP)

World Urges Settlement of Jerusalem Issue Through Negotiations as U.S. Vetoes Draft Resolution

UNITED NATIONS — The international community called on involved parties to hold negotiations to determine the status of Jerusalem after the United States on Monday vetoed a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) draft resolution. The Egyptian Ambassador to the United Nations, Amr Abdellatif Aboulatta, said that the draft resolution sought to ensure that any attempts to alter the characteristics or demographic composition of

the Old City of Jerusalem would have no effect, were null and void, and must be rescinded. It also called on all parties not to establish diplomatic missions in Jerusalem. The other 14 members of the Security Council voted in favor of the Egypt-drafted text but as the United States, a permanent member of the UNSC, has veto power, the draft resolution failed to be adopted. In explaining the veto, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley said



it was the first U.S. veto in the Security Council in more than six years. "We do it with no joy, but we do it with no reluctance," she told the Security Council. Despite the fact that the vote was 14-1, Haley said the veto was not a source of embarrassment for the United States. (Xinhua)

As Brexit Debate Becomes Heated, May Calls for End to Threats of Violence



LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May Monday called for an end to threats of violence as passions over Brexit spill over into intimidation. May's plea came as she made a statement to MPs

in the House of Commons on the latest developments on negotiations with the European Union over Britain's departure from the bloc. Last week in a debate at Westminster, a group of Conservative MPs voted

against the government, inflicting the first defeat for May in the progress of a bill to achieve Brexit. A number of those MPs who voted against their own party complained of receiving threats, and also a lashing in pro-Brexit newspapers. May told a crowded House of Commons: "We are dealing with questions of great significance to our country's future, so it is natural that there are many strongly held views on all sides of this chamber. It is right and proper that we should debate them — and do so with all the passion and

conviction that makes our democracy what it is. But there can never be a place for the threats of violence and intimidation against some MPs that we have seen in recent days." Meanwhile, May said Europeans arriving after Britain leaves the European Union in March, 2019 will have to register during a two-year transition period. She insisted that Britain will leave as planned in March, 2019 and this will be followed by a strictly time-limited implementation period of up to two years. (Xinhua)

S. Korean President Says Visit to China Sets Foundation for Full-Scale Cooperation

SEOUL — South Korean President Moon Jae-in said Monday that his state visit to China last week had set a foundation for a full-scale cooperation and relations between the two countries. Moon told a meeting with his senior secretaries that his four-day visit to China was very fruitful as it set a foundation for the full-scale cooperation and normalized ties between South Korea and China in all areas including politics and security as well as economy. Moon said his China tour

last week had a great meaning as it completed South Korea's urgent assignment of diplomacy before the end of this year. Through this visit, Moon said, South Korea and China established a firm, mature strategic cooperative partnership that will not be wavered by external factors. He asked politicians both in the ruling and opposition parties as well as the media and the general public to support the government's position. (Xinhua)

Qatari FM in Algeria to Discuss U.S. Jerusalem Decision, Gulf Crisis

ALGIERS — Qatar's Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed Bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani on Monday started a two-day visit to Algeria to discuss the latest U.S. move on Jerusalem and the diplomatic crisis in the Gulf. The top Qatari diplomat was welcomed upon his arrival at Houarai Boumediene International Airport of Algiers by his Algerian counterpart, Abdelkader Messahel. The Qatari top diplomat is due to hold talks with Algerian officials about bilateral relations and prevailing issues in the Arab region, notably the recent decision of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel. The U.S. decision on Dec. 6 has sparked widespread protests from the Palestinians and leaders of Arab countries. Jerusalem is revered by Muslims as the third holiest site in Islam. The blockade imposed by a number of Arab and Gulf countries on Qatar is also on the agenda, as Algeria has already urged Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt to resort to dialogue as the only way to resolve their differences.

The Saudi-led bloc has severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a blockade on Doha since early June, citing Qatar's support to terrorism and interference in the internal affairs of Gulf neighbors. Qatar has denied all the charges.

Ahead of the Qatari minister's visit, Algerian President Abdelaziz Bouteflika wrote to Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani to hail the "exceptional" ties in all areas between the two countries. Bouteflika further expressed his "willingness to work towards strengthening these relationships to hoist them at the highest level, in the best interests of both peoples." (Xinhua)

Macron Rebuffs Assad Accusations that France Sponsors Terrorism

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that Bashar al-Assad was the enemy of millions of his own people and in no position to lecture France, after the Syrian leader accused Paris of supporting terrorism. After a string of strong comments by French officials blaming Assad's government for atrocities and failed talks, Assad said on Monday France was supporting bloodshed in Syria, making it unfit to talk about peace settlements. "France spearheaded support for terrorism and their hands are soaked in Syrian blood from the



first days and we do not see they have changed their stance fundamentally," Assad was quoted in state media as saying. "Those who support terrorism have no right to talk about peace," Assad added. Despite being a leading backer of the Syrian opposition, France has

sought a more pragmatic approach to the conflict since the arrival of Macron, saying that Assad's departure was not a precondition for talks to end the six-year war. Speaking alongside NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Macron hit back at Assad. (Reuters)

Geneva UN Summit Mulls Future of Internet Governance

GENEVA — Every current and future internet user should think about where decisions are being made in the process of internet governance, experts here said Monday. Speaking at the 12th UN Internet Governance Forum, Kathy Brown, president and CEO at the Internet Society, stressed internet users should have a voice in what affects them. Discussing what global digital governance will look like in the coming years, Mariya Gabriel, commissioner for Digital Economy and Society of the European Commission, said that future would be

about human-centered internet values, digital skills and transparency, while a challenge facing everyone is "how to keep a human face in front of robots and machines". Outlining her vision, Doris Leuthard, president of the Swiss Confederation, said that confidence and trust in the internet and information were of utmost importance, especially in this "year of fake news". Millions of objects are being connected, new technologies such as blockchain being deployed, so there must be governance to create certainty and predictability, she added. (Xinhua)

Turkey Gropes for Strategy to Tackle Syrian Refugee Issue

ANKARA — As the war in neighboring Syria drags on and will enter soon its seventh year with no tangible breakthrough in peace talks, the record 3.3 million Syrian refugees Turkey is hosting has become a harsh reality it has to deal with.

The majority of Syrians who fled to Turkey are happy to be in the country and have no intention or limited intention to return, according to a recent extensive survey by prominent refugee experts.

According to the latest figures, an average of 306 babies are born from the 3.3 million registered Syrians in Turkey every day. Meanwhile, among the scattered Syrian refugees across Turkey, only 7 percent live in camps established in towns near the Syrian border in decent conditions.

"Our research shows despite all the difficulties, 50 percent of Syrians say they are happy. And this figure is quite high. So, at least 50 percent have no motivation at all to go back," said Murat Erdogan, a leading author of the survey and the director of the Turkish German University's Migration and Integration Research Center. Another recent survey conducted jointly by the IPSOS research center and the Humanitarian Foundation for Development (INGEV), confirms this trend. According to its results, when asked about their future expectations, 52 percent said they are optimistic about them and their families' future in Turkey. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China Committed to Global Peace, Development, Order: Chinese Embassy in Washington

WASHINGTON — Responding to the newly released U.S. national security strategy, the Chinese embassy spokesperson in Washington Monday said China will always remain committed to world peace, global development and international order. Earlier on Monday, U.S. President Donald Trump announced the national security strategy, which labeled China and Russia as Washington's "competitors" and "rival powers" seeking to undermine U.S. national interests on all fronts.

The Chinese spokesperson said peace and development are the theme of the present times and the common aspirations of all. Any effort against this would be inappropriate and end up being discarded by the times. Also, any attempt to put the national interests of some countries above others' and the inter-

national community's interests reflects self-centeredness that would lead to nowhere but self-isolation, the Chinese official added. The fundamentals of China's development lie in people's wellbeing, rejuvenation of the country, and global peace and prosperity. How China, the world's largest developing country, and the United States, the world's largest developed country, see each other and define their bilateral relations is relevant to the welfare of the two peoples and the international community, the spokesperson said. The U.S. effort to regard China as a rival, contradicting its previous claim to develop a partnership with China, goes against the interdependent nature of China-U.S. ties as well as the two countries' efforts to cooperate in bilateral and international affairs. (Xinhua)

France, U.S. 'Determined' to up Pressure on Iran over Ballistic Weapons

PARIS — France and the United States are determined to "vigorously" raise pressure on Iran over its ballistic missile program, including possibly through sanctions, Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said during a visit to Washington. Le Drian was in the American capital on Monday to meet U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, White House national security adviser H.R. McMaster and U.S. President Donald Trump's special adviser Jared Kushner.

Tensions between Iran and France have risen in recent months with both sides repeatedly trading barbs in public, including Le Drian accusing Iran of "hegemonic temptations" in the region.

Iran on Sunday criticized President Emmanuel Macron over his tough stance toward Tehran and said Paris would soon lose its international credibility if it "blindly follows" U.S. President Donald Trump. "They didn't like the word, but I stand by it," Le Drian told reporters. "Iran's hegemonic temptations in the region is a matter of urgency because it's within the framework of getting peace in Iraq and Syria that we will stop this process." Iranian officials have been particularly aggrieved by France's criticism of its ballistic missile tests and suggestions of possible new sanctions over the program, which Tehran calls solely defensive in nature. (Reuters)

PMLN to Launch Movement for Rule of Law, Supremacy of Constitution: Nawaz Sharif

ISLAMABAD — President Pakistan Muslim League(N) Muhammad Nawaz Sharif Tuesday said his party will launch a movement and reach out to the people to ensure rule of law and supremacy of the constitution in the country. Talking to mediemen after hearing of his case in the Accountability Court here, he said, "We will take our struggle for justice to its logical conclusion. People are not senseless and will not accept wrong decisions." "Neither we nor our party will accept wrong decisions. We will reach

out to the public and will launch a movement for justice." He said he as prime minister was removed in seconds while Imran Khan himself admitted that the offshore company was his asset but he was not disqualified. Nawaz Sharif said Pakistan was created in 1947 for the rule of law and Constitution. Only rule of law would be followed in the country and nothing else, he added. Nawaz Sharif said double standards and injustice should not continue and his party would stand against this behavior. (Monitoring Desk)

Russia Delivers Military Equipment to Tajikistan

DUSHANBE — Russia has delivered military products to Tajikistan "free of charge," said Russian Defense Ministry on Tuesday. "Tajikistan has received small arms, artillery and armored hardware. Helicopters, communication and air defense means, logistic, medical and survey equipment," the ministry said in a statement. It said the supply was part of the moderni-

zation program for the Tajikistan's Armed Forces, signed by Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon. "The Russian side considers such activity as the key element for reinforcing its CSTO (Collective Security Treaty Organization) ally, and contribution to strengthening of Tajikistan-Afghanistan border," it added. (Agencies)