

G20 Leaders Vow to Jointly Fight against Terrorism

HAMBURG, Germany - The leaders of the G20 vowed on Friday to enhance cooperation to fight against terrorism and its financing after the working sessions on the first day of G20 Summit in Hamburg.

According to the statement released Friday, the heads of state of the 20 largest industrialized and developing nations which account for around 85 percent of the global gross product reaffirmed that all measures on countering terrorism need to be implemented in accordance with the United Nations (UN) Charter and all obligations under international law. Specifically, the leaders



agreed on more swift and targeted exchanges of information as well as making full use of relevant information sharing mechanisms, in particular INTERPOL's information sharing-functions. Regarding the financing of terrorism, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to tackle all sources, techniques and channels of terrorist financing, calling for swift and effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolutions and the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) standards worldwide, strengthening measures against the financing of international terrorist organizations. (Xinhua)

U.S.-Russian Presidents' First Meeting Considered Success

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump's much-anticipated meeting Friday with Russian President Vladimir Putin is considered a success by U.S. experts, who note that the two leaders cut a deal on the war in Syria. Indeed, Friday's meeting, on the sidelines of the G20 Summit in Hamburg, Germany, saw the two leaders strike a ceasefire agreement in parts of Syria, in a bid to begin to curb the bloodshed that has impacted both sides in the war-

tom Middle Eastern nation. U.S. experts called the meeting, overall, a success, and said it may foreshadow future U.S.-Russia cooperation. "Trump had a successful meeting with Putin. The two leaders announced a limited ceasefire in parts of Syria. If it holds, that would be a hopeful sign of further cooperation on that delicate issue. So many people have suffered in Syria that it is important each side do what it can to alleviate the human suffering,"



Brookings Institution Senior Fellow Darrell West told Xinhua.

Indeed, bilateral meetings on the sides of G20 meetings usually last 30 minutes at the longest. But with the two lead-

ers meeting for over two hours, the meeting was considered a marathon. "The goal of this meeting was to form a personal relationship with Putin that leads to agreements down the road. (Xinhua)

Trump Eyes Swift UK Trade Deal, Says State Visit to Go Ahead

HAMBURG - US President Donald Trump said Saturday his controversial state visit to Britain will go ahead, adding that he was hoping for a "very powerful" trade deal with London "very, very quickly". At a meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May at the G20 summit in Germany, Trump said they would have "tremendous talks" and reach "a very powerful deal" on trade "very, very quickly." Any negotiations for such an accord would further drive a wedge between

Britain and the European Union which has warned London against striking any separate agreement before its divorce from the bloc was complete. Back home, May has been decided for seeking to curry favour with Trump and has come under fire for inviting him for a state visit. But questions about the trip arose after it got no mention in Queen Elizabeth II's annual speech to parliament in June, when it is customary for the monarch to list upcoming state visits. (AFP)

Theresa May to Hit Reset with Vision for Brexit Britain

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May is planning to relaunch her political mission to deliver Brexit and help ordinary working people, as she tries to put last month's disastrous election result behind her, according to a senior government official. May is lining up significant interventions in the next week, including a major speech, setting out her commitment to social and economic reform that will make Britain's exit from the European Union a success, the person said on condition of anonymity because the plans are not public. The reboot of

May's premiership comes after the electoral fiasco put her under intense scrutiny, with many in her own team convinced she must be replaced sooner or later. By losing the government's majority, she's reopened the debate over how Brexit should unfold, with some of her own most senior Conservative ministers now emboldened to disagree with her. May's dismal performance also prompted a surge in support for her main rival, Labour's Jeremy Corbyn, and sparked speculation about how long she can survive as prime minister. (AP)

All G-20 Nations but US Reaffirm Paris Accord

HAMBURG, Germany - German Chancellor Angela Merkel says 19 members of the Group of 20 have reaffirmed the Paris climate accord as "irreversible." Merkel said Saturday that the summit's final statement "takes account" of the U.S. position rejecting the climate deal. That leaves the United States as the odd one out after President Donald Trump announced his intent to withdraw the U.S. from the agreement. The Paris accord aims to lower emissions of the green-



house gases scientists say cause global warming. Merkel called the U.S. position "regrettable." Officials did reach a common statement including Trump about the other

contentious issue at the summit, trade. The statement retains the G-20's longstanding rejection of protectionism. But it also acknowledged that trade must be mutually

beneficial and that countries can use "legitimate" trade defenses to protect workers and industries against being taken advantage of by trade partners. (AP)

Xi Meets Abe, Urges Japan to Remove Distractions of Ties with Actions

HAMBURG, Germany - Chinese President Xi Jinping said here on Saturday that Japan shall honor its words on issues related to history and Taiwan, and remove the distractions in bilateral relations with strategies and concrete actions. While meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the sidelines of the ongoing Group of 20 (G20) summit, Xi also urged Japan to learn from history so as to ensure that the China-Japan relations run in the right direction and have a brighter prospect. Xi noted that the sound neighborly relations between China and Japan concern not only the well-being of the two peoples, but also have an impact on Asia and the world at large.

China and Japan normalized their diplomatic relations 45 years ago after reaching key consensus on history, Taiwan and Diaoyu Islands, among other issues. Next year, the two nations will embrace the 40th anniversary of the signing of the China-Japan Treaty of Peace and Friendship.

The Chinese president said the two countries shall enhance their sense of responsibility at this moment, and seize the opportunities in the new era of bilateral ties. In spite of twists and turns, and other severe tests in the past 45 years, the development of Beijing-Tokyo relations has rendered both sides many constructive inspirations, Xi said. For Japan, it shall prove its expectations for peace, friendship and cooperation with China with policies and concrete actions, he added. (Xinhua)

Arab Countries Announce new Sanctions against Qatar

CAIRO - Qatar will be subject to further sanctions for Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt, a joint statement says here today, some few hours after a meeting of foreign ministers from those states. The Qatari refusal to comply with our demands to resolve the diplomatic crisis of the Gulf is a proof of its ties with terrorist groups, says the text, coordinated last night by the signatories. The 13-demand list was presented to Doha in mid-June; the Qatari au-

thorities claim that some of the allegations, such as the support for terrorist groups, are nonexistent and, others, unacceptable for being incumbent on their sovereignty, such as reducing their ties with Iran and withdrawing the Turkish military base in their territory. Today's statement accuses Qatar of sabotaging efforts to settle the dispute (...) its rejection to the demands conspires against the stability and security of the region, but clarifies that the new sanctions target the government and will

not affect the Qatari people. After the closure of the borders with Qatar, thousands of the country's residents in the neighboring states had to return to their place of origin, including the members of Bedouin tribes dedicated to camel breeding. Kuwait started a mediation in the dispute, whose most tangible result was the extension of the 10-day period granted to Qatar to respond to the statement of demands, but that initiative failed and it is unknown if it will continue in other ways. (Agencies)

At G20 Summit, Trump Promises \$639 Million in Food, Humanitarian Aid

HAMBURG - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday promised \$639 million in funding for humanitarian programs, including \$331 million to help feed starving people in four famine-hit countries - Somalia, South Sudan, Nigeria and Yemen.

Trump's pledge came during a working session of the G20 summit of world leaders in Hamburg, providing a "godsend" to the U.N. World Food Programme, the group's executive director, David Beasley, told Reuters on the sidelines of the meeting. "We're facing the worst humanitarian crisis since World War Two," said

Beasley, a Republican and former South Carolina governor who was nominated by Trump to head the world's largest humanitarian agency fighting hunger worldwide.

He said the additional funding was about a third of what the agency estimated was required this year to deal with urgent food needs in the four countries facing famine and in other areas. The WFP estimates that 109 million people around the world will need food assistance this year, up from 80 million last year, with 10 of the 13 worst affected zones stemming from wars and "man-made" crises, Beasley said. (Reuters)

Pope Warns G20 against 'Dangerous Alliances' Damaging Poor, Migrants: Paper

MILAN - Pope Francis warned leaders of the world's top 20 economies meeting in Hamburg against forming dangerous and distorting alliances that could harm the poor and migrants, in an article in Italian daily la Repubblica on Saturday.

"The G20 worries me, it hits migrants in countries in half of the world and it hits them even more as time goes by," the Pope was quoted as saying in a conversation with the paper's founder Eugenio Scalfari.

Francis, the first non-European pope in 1,300 years, said he was afraid of "very dangerous alliances among (foreign) powers that have a distorted vision of the world: America and Russia, China and North Korea, (Vladimir) Putin and (Bashar al-)Assad in the war in Syria." He said the greatest danger concerned immigration, with "the poor, the weak, the excluded and the marginalised" juxtaposed with "those who... fear the invasion of migrants".

European Union states are at odds over how to cope with a huge influx of migrants, many fleeing war and poverty in countries Syria, Afghanistan and other countries. On top of resolving the differences over trade and climate change Angela Merkel, chancellor of G20 host nation Germany, is expected to lead discussions on this issue. Pope Francis was also quoted as saying Europe should adopt a federal structure as soon as possible or "it won't count for anything in the world". In May the 79-year old Argentine urged Europe not to see migrants as criminals. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Xi, Macron Agree to Promote China-France Cooperation

HAMBURG, Germany - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron agreed here Saturday to promote bilateral relations and cooperation.

"The Chinese side is willing to make concerted efforts with the French side to continue to view the bilateral relations from a strategic height and a long-term perspective, and work for a better development of our ties," Xi said during a meeting with Macron on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies in Hamburg, Germany.

Political mutual trust, pioneering and innovative spirit, and fruitful international cooperation have been the outstanding features of the China-France relationship, Xi added. Both China and France are permanent mem-

bers of the UN Security Council, that pursue an independent foreign policy, safeguard the international order with the purposes and principles of the UN Charter at its core, and advocate exchanges and learning from each other between different civilizations, Xi said. "The China-France relationship has become increasingly strategic under current situation," he said. "It is our shared historical responsibility to maintain and promote the China-France comprehensive strategic partnership."

Xi proposed that the two countries increase high-level exchanges and take into account each other's core interests and major concerns based on the principles of mutual respect, trust, understanding and accommodation. The two countries should also dovetail their development strategies, he said. (Xinhua)

CPEC Related Modern Technology to Help Alleviate Energy Issues: President

ISLAMABAD - President Mamnoon Hussain Saturday said the use of modern technology in the China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) related energy projects would alleviate the energy crisis in Pakistan and play a key role in its long-term growth.

The president was talking to Dr. Wan Gang, Chinese minister for science and technology who called on him at the Aiwan-e-Sadr.

Minister for Science and Technology Rana Tanveer Hussain, Chinese Ambassador Sun Weidong and senior officials were also present in the meeting, according to a press release.

The president said the bilateral cooperation in the field of science and technology was progressing well and hoped that the

decisions taken during this visit, would further enhance the cooperation in this important area.

"We are also interested in benefiting from China's ambitious China-South Asian Countries Science and Technology Partnership Programme (CSA-STEP) and enhance our economic cooperation through technology transfer," he added.

The president noted with satisfaction that 17 protocols had been concluded so far in accordance with the Framework Agreement on Science and Technology, signed between the two countries in 1976 and the 18th Protocol was being signed during this visit.

He said Pakistan and China were 'Iron Brothers', strategic partners and good neighbours. (APP)

Iran, Russia Send Military Delegation to Afrin

TEHRAN - Kurdish sources reported that a Russian-Iranian military delegation has recently been dispatched to Northern Aleppo to study the situation in the strategic town of Afrin after Turkey's recent threats to launch ground assault against the town.

Al-Darar al-Shamiyeh news website affiliated to the dissidents quoted the sources as saying that the delegation has entered Afrin. Also, the Saudi al-Hayat newspaper reported that the delegation has been sent to Afrin to become informed of the latest achievements gained by the army and its allies after the recent Syria

peace talks in Astana as well as the field situation in the town and Northern Aleppo after Turkey's recent threats.

A well-informed local source in Northern Aleppo reported earlier this month that thousands of militants affiliated to the Turkish Army are to kick off an imminent large-scale operation codenamed Seif al-Forat (the Euphrates Sword) in Afrin region.

The source reported that the Syrian Army Forces (SFA), backed up by the Turkish soldiers, are ready now to carry out a large-scale operation in Afrin region with over 20,000 fighters. (FNA)

Uzbekistan not to Restore its Membership in CSTO - FM

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan will not restore its membership in the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), the country's Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov said.

He made the remarks July 7 during a direct dialogue with Uzbek citizens at the meeting of the International Press Club in Tashkent.

The issue of restoring Uzbekistan's membership in the CSTO was not discussed during the state visit of the country's

President Shavkat Mirziyoyev to Moscow in April 2017, he added.

Kamilov noted that Uzbekistan remains committed to the adopted foreign policy concept, which implies non-participation in military blocs. CSTO is an intergovernmental military alliance. The Collective Security Treaty was signed in Tashkent on May 15, 1992 by the heads of Armenia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. (Trend)