

Decade on, Chinese Yuan Wins Worldwide Recognition

BEIJING - From a currency that barely registered in the international market to one with worldwide recognition, Chinese yuan's rise on the global stage over the past decade is a testament to China's growing economic clout and unwavering opening up. Since July 2009 when the yuan's global journey started with a pilot scheme allowing for yuan settlements in cross-border trade, the redback's overseas footprint has been expanding rapidly, being widely used in international trade, finance as well as serving as a reserve currency.

According to a report released at the 2019 International Monetary Forum at



Renmin University, the RMB Internationalization Index (RII) came in at 2.95 percent as of the

end of 2018, tracking the yuan's share in global use.

Though still dwarfed by the dominance of the U.S. dollar, the reading marked a big leap from the 0.02-percent share seen a decade ago.

Another report by international financial transaction agency SWIFT showed the yuan's share in global payments rose to 1.95 percent in May, retaining its position as the fifth most active currency for domestic and international payments, behind the U.S. dollar, the euro, the pound and the Japanese yen.

Within a decade, the yuan has assumed an increasingly important role in the global trade and monetary system, and should China stay ... (More on P4)... (13)

Macron Boed & Told to 'Step Down' During Bastille Day Parade in Paris

PARIS - France's major national holiday didn't proceed smoothly for President Emmanuel Macron, as dozens of protesters boed him and demanded his resignation ahead of a massive military parade in central Paris.

Numerous people started to vent their anger at Macron moments before his motorcade - accompanied by the French horse guards - showed up at the Champs Elysees avenue on Sunday afternoon. Ruptly agency filmed people boing

and chanting 'Macron, step down!' in French. Some were seen waving France's national flag as the President and his entourage headed down the street to review participating troops. The protesters were encircled - though were not confronted - by dozens of police officers wearing riot gear. At some point, however, the situation became more tense, with police using pepper spray during small scuffles in downtown Paris. It is unclear ... (More on P4)... (17)

Trump Ruined Iran Nuclear Deal 'To Spite Obama' - Former UK Envoy in New Leak

WASHINGTON - Trump completely lacked an exit strategy when he pulled out of the Iran nuclear deal and made the decision out of pure animosity towards his predecessor, the ex-UK ambassador to the US said, according to a new embarrassing leak.

Desperate to save the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), then-UK Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson flew to the US in May 2018 to persuade President Donald Trump to abide by the accord. Despite

intense negotiations at the White House with Trump's closest aides that lasted for 26 hours, Johnson returned empty-handed, simply because Trump wanted to spite Barack Obama for negotiating the agreement, the UK's former ambassador to the US, Sir Kim Darroch, told 10 Downing Street, according to a leaked diplomatic cable published by the Mail on Sunday.

The Administration is set upon an act of diplomatic vandalism, seemingly for ideological and per-



sonality reasons - it was Obama's deal. The cable sent out on May 8 last year also claimed that the White House had lacked any strategy on how to handle the withdrawal and suggested that there were ... (More on P4)... (14)

Israel Threatens 'Crushing' Response to Any Hezbollah Strike



JERUSALEM - Israel's prime minister says it will deliver a "crushing" strike against Hezbollah if the Lebanese militant

group attempts to attack. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was reacting to comments made by Hezbollah's leader, Has-

san Nasrallah. In an interview Friday, Nasrallah boasted that his group is much stronger than during the

2006 war and is capable of striking anywhere in Israel. Pointing to a map, Nasrallah identified a list of targets he said his group could strike, saying "in all fields, the resistance has developed in quantity and quality." Speaking to his Cabinet Sunday, Netanyahu criticized what he called Nasrallah's "arrogant" words. He says "if Hezbollah dares to do something stupid and attack Israel, we will strike it and Lebanon, a crushing military strike." (AP)

Heavy Rain Leaves Scores Dead in Nepal, India, Bangladesh

KATHMANDU, Nepal - Flooding and landslides triggered by heavy rainfall have killed at least 50 people in Nepal in the past few days, with more deaths reported across the border in India and Bangladesh, officials said Sunday.

At least 30 other people were missing in Nepal, either swept away by swollen rivers or buried by mudslides since monsoon rains began pounding the region on Friday, Nepal's National Emergency Operation Center said.

The center said nine key highways remained blocked by floods and mudslides, and attempts were underway to open them up for traffic. Among them is the East-West Highway, which connects Nepal's southern districts.

Other roads were being cleared by thousands of police and soldiers. Continuing bad weather has grounded helicopter rescue flights. Workers were also repairing fallen communication towers to ... (More on P4)... (18)

For 3rd Day, Russia Delivers S-400 System Parts to Turkey

ISTANBUL - For the third straight day, Russia has delivered components of its S-400 air defense system to Turkey.

Turkey's Defense Ministry tweeted Sunday about the landing of a fifth and sixth Russian cargo planes at Murted Air Base, near the capital, Ankara. It said two more planes were expected within hours.

The deliveries for the Russian-made defense system, which is driving a rift between Turkey and the United States, began Friday. The United States has repeatedly warned it will impose economic sanctions and kick Turkey out of the F-35 stealth fighter jet program if Ankara does not drop its S-400 purchase. Turkey, a fellow NATO nation, has refused to bow to U.S. pressure, saying its defense purchase is a matter of national sovereignty. (AP)

Bypassing Parliament on No-Deal Brexit would be Unlawful, Says Campaigner

LONDON - Legal campaigner Gina Miller said on Sunday any attempt to suspend Britain's parliament in order to push through a no-deal Brexit would be unlawful, announcing her intention to challenge such a move in court if necessary.

Boris Johnson, the frontrunner to become Britain's next prime minister, has refused to rule out suspending parliament to deliver on his promise that Britain will leave the European Union on Oct. 31 with or without an exit deal. Parliament has on several occasions voted against a no-deal Brexit, meaning that unless ... (More on P4)... (19)

EU Supports Iraq-Proposed Conference on US-Iran Tensions

BAGHDAD - The European Union supports an Iraqi proposal to hold a regional conference amid rising tensions between the United States and Iran, the group's foreign policy chief said Saturday.

Iraq is an ally of the two rival nations, which are on a collision course as the Iran nuclear deal threatens to unravel. Iraq has offered to mediate between Tehran and Washington, while Iran has pressed European parties to the nuclear agreement to offset the effects of U.S. sanctions.

Foreign Policy Chief Federica Mogherini,



on her first visit since 2014, said the EU shared with Iraq the approach to dealing with the difficult situation, adding that the priority is to avoid escalation and any miscalculations that could lead to "dangerous consequences" for Iraq and beyond. She said the EU is ready

to support the regional conference idea "in all ways that could be useful." She said there is a need to de-escalate and find avenues for dialogue.

Avenues of the "unknown ... can be dangerous for everybody," Mogherini said. Iraq ... (More on P4)... (15)

U.S. President Trump to Host Australian PM for Official Dinner

CANBERRA - Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison has accepted an invitation to a state dinner with U.S. President Donald Trump.

Morrison confirmed that he will be hosted by Trump at the White House in September, the first time an Australian leader has shared a formal state dinner with a U.S. president since 2006.

Making the announcement Morrison spoke glowingly of Trump and said

that the relationship between Australia and the U.S. is stronger than it has ever been.

"He's a strong leader who says what he's going to do and then goes and does it," he told reporters on Saturday.

"He has demonstrated a real keen interest in and knowledge of Australia and the relationship that extends back particularly more than a century. ... (More on P4)... (16)

Taiwan President Travels to Haiti to Bolster Relations in The Region

PORT-AU-PRINCE - Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen visited Haiti on Saturday in an attempt to bolster support in the region after the neighboring Dominican Republic broke diplomatic ties with Taiwan last year.

The visit to the Haitian capital of Port-au-Prince is the first stop on a 12-day trip to the Caribbean, with St Vincent and the Grenadines, St Lucia, St Kitts and Nevis to follow.

Speaking at an event with Haitian President Jovenel Moise, Tsai stressed the importance of the countries' relationship, which dates back 63 years.

"Taiwan is a faithful friend of Haiti and a faithful partner of Haiti," she said. "We will accompany Haiti in its development path."

Taiwan's allies in the Caribbean and Central America have dwindled in recent years. In 2017, Panama cut ties with Taiwan, a self-governing island that China considers a renegade province, to establish relations with China.

El Salvador and the Dominican Republic have followed suit, and Honduras has signaled it may do the same. Officials from the United States warned El Salvador against the move, cautioning against a "predatory" China.

Speaking alongside Tsai, Moise stressed Haiti's commitment to Taiwan. He noted Tsai's trip came a little more than a year after his own visit to Taipei. Addressing ... (More on P4)... (20)

Neighbor News

Rouhani Hails Iranians' "Resistance against U.S. Tough Sanctions"

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani on Sunday hailed what he called Iranians' resistance against tough sanctions by the United States over the past months.

"The world's biggest economic and military power (the U.S.) has imposed tough sanctions on Iran for 14 months, the sanctions which could break any nation. But, the Iranian nation has resisted those sanctions powerfully," Rouhani said in a live state TV broadcast addressing a crowd in the Iranian northeastern city of Shirvan.

He acknowledged that the country has faced difficulties amidst the U.S. sanctions, but noted that "hand in hand, we have overcome those difficulties."

Rouhani said that the foreign debts of the country

is currently down 25 percent compared to the figures last year.

"Defeat was the outcome of the U.S. measures against Iran," he said.

"No one has taken heed of the U.S. claims against Iran in the United Nations or in the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)," he said, adding that "instead, all the countries in the international bodies have supported Iran." Washington withdrew from the Iranian 2015 international nuclear deal in May 2018 and subsequently imposed unprecedented sanctions against Iran's energy, industry and financial sectors in an attempt to force Tehran to the renewed negotiations over the country's nuclear deal, its ballistic missile program and Iran's role in the region. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Imported Medicines Worth Rs 136 Cr from India in 2019

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan imported medicines and vaccines worth (Pakistani) Rs 136,99,87,000 from India in 2019, its Health Ministry has said. Express News reported that the imported medicines included life-saving drugs, tablets, syrups and vaccines.

According to figures announced by the Pakistan Health Ministry in Senate on Friday, the country imported drugs and vaccines worth (Pakistani) Rs 15,43,17,000 in January; Rs 22,32,47,000 in February; Rs 19,37,37,000 in March; Rs 11,10,42,000 in April; Rs 18,96,47,000 in May and Rs 4,89,12,000 from India.

Demanding that the senate be informed about which medicines and vaccines were being imported from India, Senator Abdul Rehman Malik said the government must curb the shortage of snake venom serum and rabies vaccines in Pakistan by making it mandatory for local manufacturers to produce these vaccines in addition to expensive medical products.

"It's a pity that medicines are being imported from India and China when Pakistan is self-sufficient in medical raw material. Vaccines made here would be much more affordable," he added. (Monitoring Desk)

Uzbekistan to Sell Energy Stake

TASHKENT - Energy-rich Uzbekistan has announced it plans to sell off a stake in its state energy company as the Central Asian country seeks to attract foreign investment in a sector long shrouded in secrecy. Uzbekistan's energy ministry in a statement that the state energy company Uzbekneftegaz was looking to sell off "up to 49 percent of shares" by 2024 as part of restructuring ordered by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev.

The president is looking to break out from the economic straitjacket imposed by his headline predecessor Islam Karimov and encourage more foreign investment and trade.

"Measures are to be taken to attract investment in Uzbekneftegaz by primary and secondary pub-

lic placement of up to 49 percent of shares not later than 2024," the statement said.

The restructuring will also see the company that runs transportation of oil and gas, Uztransgaz, split off from Uzbekneftegaz. The energy ministry said the restructure was necessary "to satisfy domestic and international energy needs" and "attract investments and bring Uzbekneftegaz closer to capital markets."

Uzbekneftegaz on Friday revealed for the first time data on natural gas production in the country, which kept important economic data confidential under the late Karimov, who took power before the country's independence from the USSR and died in 2016. (Agencies)

Pakistan to Pay Foreign Firm \$8.1b over Mine Closure: World Bank

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan will have to pay almost US\$6 billion (\$8.1 billion) in damages to a foreign gold mining firm whose dig was shut down by the government in 2011, the World Bank said Sunday.

The consortium Tethyan Copper company - of which Canadian gold firm Barrick and Chile's Antofagasta Minerals control 37.5 per cent each - is the largest Foreign Direct Investment mining project in the country.

More than a decade ago the group found vast gold and copper deposits at Reko Diq, in the turbulent southwestern Baluchistan province, and had planned a hugely

lucrative open-pit mine. But the project came to a standstill in 2011 after the local government refused to renew the consortium's lease, and in 2013 Pakistan's top court declared it invalid.

On Friday, the World Bank's international arbitration tribunal committee awarded \$5.84 billion in damages to Tethyan, according to a statement from the company, because of the government's decision to shut down the mine.

Pakistan's attorney general, Anwar Mansoor Khan, said in a statement they had noted the decision "with disappointment". (Monitoring Desk)