

'Completely Unacceptable': Theresa May Reprimands Donald Trump over US Democrat Women Rant

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May has branded US President Donald Trump's comments "completely unacceptable," after he angrily suggested on Twitter that four US "progressive" Democrat congresswomen should "go back" home.

Trump's launched a triple-tweet tirade at left-wing Democrats: New York's Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Michigan's Rashida Tlaib, Minnesota's Ilhan Omar, and Massachusetts' Ayanna Pressley on Sunday.

The US president provoked accusations of racism, after telling the group to go back to their "totally broken and crime infested" countries of origin after receiving brutal



criticism from them for his immigration policies and his ostensibly uncritical support for Israel. On Monday, a Downing Street spokesman in-

sisted that "The Prime Minister's view is that the language used to refer to these women was completely unacceptable."

Only one of the women, Omar, was born outside of the United States, fleeing the civil war in Somalia, and immigrating to the US at the age of 12.

The president continued the war of words directed at the Democratic progressives in an early-morning tweet Monday, in which he called for them to apologize to the US, Israel, and to his office.

May's intervention comes after UK-US ties became increasingly strained following the leak of secret memos from the British ambassador to the US branding Trump and his administration as "dysfunctional," "inept," and "incompetent." (RT)

Qatar Opens Biggest Coast Guard Base

SEMAISIMA (Qatar) - Qatar inaugurated its largest coast guard base Sunday as a standoff between Iran and the United States continues to boost tensions in strategic Gulf waters.

Prime Minister Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa Al-Thani and commander of US Naval Forces in the Middle East Vice Admiral Jim Malloy attended the ceremony at the Al-Daayen naval base in Semaisima, 30 kilometres (18 miles) from Doha on Qatar's eastern coast. Qatar, a key US ally in

the region, is home to Washington's largest Middle East military base.

Malloy, commander of the US Fifth Fleet based in Bahrain, said the new base was "a wonderful opportunity for us to interface more strongly with the Qatari coast guard".

Tensions in the Gulf -- through which nearly a third of the world's oil is transported -- have spiked in recent weeks, with the US blaming Iran for multiple attacks on tanker ships in ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

China Says Will Freeze Out U.S. Companies That Sell Arms to Taiwan

BEIJING - China's government and Chinese companies will cut business ties with U.S. firms selling arms to Taiwan, China's Foreign Ministry said on Monday, declining to give details of the sanctions in a move likely to worsen already poor ties with Washington.

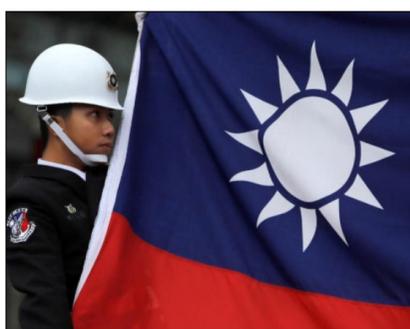
China claims self-ruled and democratic Taiwan as its own and has never renounced the use of force to bring it under Beijing's control. China regularly calls Taiwan the most sensitive issue

in its relations with the United States.

Last week, the Pentagon said the U.S. State Department had approved the sale of the weapons requested by Taiwan, including 108 General Dynamics Corp (GD.N) M1A2T Abrams tanks and 250 Stinger missiles, which are manufactured by Raytheon (RTN.N).

China said on Friday it would sanction U.S. companies selling weapons to Taiwan but did not elaborate.

The latest deal involves \$2.2 billion worth of



tanks, missiles and related equipment for Taiwan.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the arms sales were a violation of international law and harmed China's sovereignty and ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Russia Launches Major New Telescope into Space after Delays



MOSCOW - A Russian Proton-M rocket successfully delivered a cutting-edge space telescope into orbit Saturday after days of launch delays, Russia's space agency said.

Roscosmos said the telescope, named Spektr-

RG, was delivered into a parking orbit before a final burn Saturday that kicked the spacecraft out of Earth's orbit and on to its final destination: the L2 Lagrange point.

Lagrange points are unique positions in the solar system where objects can maintain their position relative to the sun and the planets that orbit it. Located 0.93 million miles from Earth, L2 is particularly ideal for telescopes such as Spektr-RG.

If all goes well, the telescope will arrive at its

designated position in three months, becoming the first Russian spacecraft to operate beyond Earth's orbit since the Soviet era. The telescope aims to conduct a complete x-ray survey of the sky by 2025, the first space telescope to do so.

The Russian accomplishment comes as the U.S. space agency NASA celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing on July 20, 1969.

Russian space science missions have suffered ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

Turkey Marks 3rd Anniversary of Failed Coup

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkey is marking the third anniversary of the July 15 failed coup attempt against the government with prayers and other events remembering its victims.

President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Monday attended a prayer recitation at a mosque on the grounds of the presidential complex, kicking off a series of events to commemorate the crushing of the coup.

On July 15, 2016, factions within the military used tanks, warplanes and helicopters to try to overthrow Erdogan's government. A total of 251 people were killed and some 2,200 wounded as the coup plotters fired on people or bombed parliament and other government buildings. Around 35 alleged coup plotters were also killed.

Turkey has blamed U.S.-based Muslim cleric Fethullah Gulen, a former Erdogan ally, for the coup attempt. Gulen rejects the accusation. (AP)

Neighbor News

Iran May Return to Pre-JCPOA Conditions

TEHRAN - The spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) says Tehran is planning to go back to the conditions preceding the landmark 2015 nuclear deal unless European signatories fulfill their obligations.

Behrouz Kamalvandi said on Monday that Tehran's retaliatory decision to reduce some of its commitments under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) is within the framework of the accord which says if one side fails to deliver its commitments, the right is reserved for the other party to reconsider its obligations.

"If the Europeans and the United States do not fulfill their commitments, we will balance out their actions under the deal by reducing commitments and taking the conditions back to how they were four years ago," he said.

He said the JCPOA was supposed to be an "exchange deal" but "what we were giving [within its framework] was way more than what we were getting in return."

The JCPOA was origi-

nally signed between Iran and six world powers -- namely the US, the UK, France, Russia, China and Germany. Washington, however, unilaterally withdrew in May 2018.

All the other parties to the deal have been critical of Washington's move and have been holding meetings with Tehran to discuss how they can make the pact work properly for the Iranian side as well, but the talks have made little progress.

Tehran has said it would potentially scrap the deal if the remaining signatories -- mainly the UK, France and Germany -- fail to deliver on pledges to protect bilateral trade from US sanctions against Iran.

In May, a year after the US President Donald Trump's decision to abandon the deal, Iran suspended some of its commitments under Articles 26 and 36 of the JCPOA, giving the other signatories a first 60-day deadline to turn their verbal support for the accord into concrete action. (Press TV)

President Urges Using Applied Physics to Meet Needs of Energy, Health Sectors

ISLAMABAD - Stressing practical approach in scientific application, President Dr Arif Alvi on Monday said physics can be best utilized to meet contemporary needs particularly related to energy, health and agriculture sectors.

"In age of fast-paced knowledge, a country can achieve real progress through application of science and technology in the interest of its society and people," the President

said in his address at the inaugural session of 44th International Nathiagali Summer College at National Centre for Physics.

President Alvi said Pakistan was richly endowed with bright people in the field of science and technology and emphasized that it was the duty of the State to provide them an environment to further grow to meet modern day challenges. (Monitoring Desk)

Western Hawks Steal Show at Iran-Bashing MKO Event

TEHRAN - US and European figures, including President Donald Trump's personal lawyer Rudy Giuliani, have attended an annual conference held by anti-Iran Mujahedin Khalq Organization (MKO) terrorists in Albania.

Giuliani addressed the event held at the terrorist group's Ashraf 3 headquarters in Tirana on Saturday, calling for regime change in Iran and defending Trump's confrontational policies toward Tehran.

"I'm proud of my government to tear up that nuclear deal," he said, referring to Trump's withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Other US politicians addressing the meeting included former Pennsylvania Governor Tom Ridge, who also served in George W. Bush's White House in the Department of Homeland Security.

Former FBI director Louis Freeh, former US House Representative for California Dana Rohrabacher and former US House Representative for Texas Ted Poe also took turns to rant against Iran.

The US officials all called for regime change in Tehran and expressed their support for the MKO which is widely detested in Iran because of its history of betrayals and crimes.

Trump has said his administration is not seeking regime change in Tehran but Iranian officials have rejected the claim, saying the US would have definitely done so if it could.

Addressing the gathering, former Connecticut Senator Joe Lieberman supported Trump's hostile policies, praising him for pulling Washington out of the nuclear deal and re-imposing sanctions on Iran. (Press TV)

Ehsaas Programme to Eradicate Poverty, Economic Growth, Health, Education

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Prime Minister on Social Protection and Poverty Alleviation, Dr Sania Nishtar Monday said that Ehsaas programme was about the creation of a 'welfare state'.

Talking to APP, she said Ehsaas, as one such trans-

formative agenda which aims at "the human capital formation for poverty eradication, economic growth and sustainable development, and overcoming financial barriers to accessing health and post-secondary education" she added. (Monitoring Desk)

Indonesia Books 200 Mln USD Trade Surplus in June

JAKARTA - Indonesia posted trade surplus of 200 million U.S. dollars in June, the country's Central Statistics Bureau (BPS) Chief Suhariyanto said on Monday. Total exports of the month were 11.78 billion dollars, while total imports stood at 11.58 billion dollars, he said.

"Indonesia's international trade in June seen robust with a surplus of 0.2 billion dollars," he said in his office.

The exports ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

FINA President Receives Honorary Degree in S. Korea

GWANGJU - FINA President Julio C. Maglione received an honorary doctorate degree on Monday in South Korea, host country of the ongoing 18th FINA World Championships.

Maglione received the doctorate degree in business administration from Honam University in Gwangju, some 330km south of the country's capital Seoul, for his "decisive role in the promotion of international relations through sport."

Attending the awards ceremony was Gwangju Mayor Lee Yong-sup, also chairman of the 18th FINA worlds' organizing committee.

"As FINA president, I humbly accept this award on behalf of the entire FINA family. I understand this is also proof of recognition for the outstanding work and commitment of our 209 member federations across the five continents," said Maglione.

"Dr. Maglione has devoted himself to the promotion of global health and welfare, and has ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Japanese Women Are Running for Parliament in Record Numbers, but Face Many Obstacles

NIIGATA, Japan - When anti-nuclear activist Junko Isogai ran for office in Japan's northern Niigata region, it had an awkward dimension: not just stump speeches and chats with constituents, but entertaining potential backers.

"I was asked to pour sake, make flattering conversation and act in a way men wouldn't dislike," Isogai, 45, a mother of two teenage girls, told Reuters.

"It was like being a bar hostess."

Such traditional campaign practices - heavy on face-to-face interaction and personal ties - are among many bar-



riers women face when trying to enter Japan's male-dominated politics, candidates and experts say.

Other hurdles include a lack of role models, social norms discouraging women from speaking out, and the burden of an intense, full-time job in a society where wom-

en are expected to be responsible for housework, child rearing and elder care.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made bringing more women into the workforce a policy pillar. But politics remains male-dominated.

Since Abe took office in ...*(More on P4)...(15)*

'Hundreds of Millions of Dollars' Needed to Stave Off Ebola Outbreak in Congo, UN Aid Chief Warns

Containing the ongoing Ebola outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo will require hundreds of millions of dollars, the UN's aid chief has warned, stating that many lives are at risk if proper action is not taken.

Speaking at a meeting in Geneva, Mark Lowcock, who heads the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), urged the international community to increase funding for his agency's aid

efforts in the African nation. He also called on UN states to work together to end the violence in the region that has plagued relief efforts and fueled a major humanitarian crisis.

Lowcock told Reuters that "hundreds of millions of dollars" would be needed to respond to the epidemic, described by officials as Congo's worst recorded Ebola outbreak. Many lives are at stake if adequate measures aren't ...*(More on P4)...(16)*