

UN Security Council to Hold Urgent Meeting on Jerusalem Violence

UNITED NATIONS - The UN Security Council will hold an urgent meeting on Monday morning to discuss the violence unfolding in Jerusalem, diplomats said on Saturday.

The meeting will be held behind closed doors, according to the UN mission of China, president of the UN Security Council for July.

"Sweden, France and Egypt request UN Security Council to urgently discuss how calls for deescalation in Jerusalem can be supported," said Carl Skau, Security Council coordinator of the mission of Sweden, on his Twitter account.

Three Israelis were killed on



Friday in a stabbing attack by a Palestinian in a West Bank settlement.

The attack followed clashes between Palestinians and Israeli forces in Jerusalem's Old City, in which three Palestinians died.

In a statement released on Saturday, the Middle East Quartet—Russia, the United States, the European Union and the United Nations—expressed concerns over the escalating tensions. "The Quartet envoys reiterate that violence deepens mistrust and is fundamentally incompatible with achieving a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict," said the statement. (Xinhua)

Britain Needs Transitional Deal with EU, to End before next Election: Minister

LONDON - British trade minister Liam Fox said on Sunday that he backed a transition agreement to smooth Britain's departure from the European Union, but it would have to come to an end before the next election due in 2022.

Speaking on the BBC's The Andrew Marr Show, Fox said a transition deal of two years, or slightly more or less, was necessary to make sure business can make investment decisions with certainty of Britain's future relationship with the EU. "I want to leave the European Union at the end of March 2019. Now once we have done that, once we have fulfilled our promise to the British people, we can look to see what we are going to do in terms of making that a smooth transition," he said.

He said planning for a transitional period of 24 months "whether that's 23 whether that's 25 is not a huge deal" after waiting more than 40 years to leave the European Union, but it had to be limited in scope and Britain must know its terms.

"For example would we be able to negotiate our own trade agreements during that transition period? Because if we were not then we wouldn't be able to take full advantage of the freedoms available to us when we leave the European Union, so there's a discussion to be had." (Reuters)

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He added that Israel is attempting to impose a new reality in East Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Muslims' third holiest site.

On Friday, three Palestinian protesters were killed and hundreds others injured in clashes with Israeli troops over Israel's introduction of detectors and cameras at the Muslim entrance to the holy site, which sparked anger throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. Clashes between Palestinian worshippers and Israeli police are still ongoing outside the Mosque.

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establish an independent state with East Jerusalem as its capital city in the light of the UN-proposed two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders. (Xinhua)

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"It's been a very, very bad period of time for our military," Trump told service members as he highlighted his efforts to ask Congress for a 54-billion-U.S.-dollar extra budget for military purposes next year. "You will get it. Don't worry about it," said the Republican president. However, the 13-billion-dollar vessel equipped with an advanced electromagnetic jet-launching system, was seriously criticized by Trump earlier. (Xinhua)

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Erdogan Says Muslims Won't Remain Silent on Jerusalem Crisis



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Most Americans Prefer Diplomacy to Military Action on Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue: Poll

WASHINGTON - As the White House continues to weigh its options to deal with the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue, a new poll found that a majority of Americans believe the United States should mostly use diplomacy instead of military action.

According to the NBC/SurveyMonkey National Security poll released early this week, 59 percent of Americans believe that U.S. President Donald Trump should mostly use diplomacy in dealing with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), compared to 35 percent who favor military action over diplomacy.

Opinions about how the Trump administration should handle the issue differ largely by party, the poll also found. While 76 percent of Democrats and Democratic-leaning prefer diplomacy to military action in dealing with the DPRK nuclear issue, 56 percent of Republican and Republican-leaning say the United States should mostly use military action. (Xinhua)

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Arab League Chief Warns Israel not to Trespass "Red Line"

CAIRO -The Arab League (AL) Secretary General Ahmed Aboul-Ghiet warned Israel on Sunday that Jerusalem is "a red line" that cannot be bypassed.

"Israel is playing with fire and is igniting a big crisis with the Arab and Muslim world because of its measures in Jerusalem," Aboul-Ghiet's spokesman said in a press statement. He added that Israel is attempting to impose a new reality in East Jerusalem and the Al-Aqsa Mosque, the Muslims' third holiest site.

On Friday, three Palestinian protesters were killed and hundreds others injured in clashes with Israeli troops over Israel's introduction of detectors and cameras at the Muslim entrance to the holy site, which sparked anger throughout the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

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German Justice Minister Open for EU Sanctions Against Poland

BERLIN - Germany's justice minister is welcoming possible European Union sanctions against Poland because of that country's controversial judicial reforms.

Minister Heiko Maas on Sunday told the weekly paper Bild am Sonntag that "the independence of the judiciary is in danger in Poland." He says "somebody who gives so little respect to the rule of law has to accept that he isolates himself politically."

The minister added "the EU cannot stand and watch inactively. Rule of law and democracy are the bedrock of the EU."

Poland's court legislation, approved Saturday, has drawn condemnation from EU leaders and led to major protests across Poland.

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Turkish Leader Wades into Qatar Dispute with Gulf Tour

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - Turkey's president waded into the diplomatic crisis gripping Qatar and four other Arab nations on Sunday, traveling to Saudi Arabia at the start of a three-country Gulf tour aimed at helping break the impasse.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan, whose country has deployed troops to Qatar, is the fifth high-level visitor from outside the Gulf to try to resolve the dispute since it erupted on June 5.

The top diplomats of Britain, France, Germany and the United States



have all been through already, underscoring the depth of concern the crisis is causing well beyond the region.

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Next-Generation U.S. Carrier Commissioned as Trump Promises more Defense Budget

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Navy commissioned United States Ship (USS) Gerald R. Ford, the newest and most advanced aircraft carrier, at a naval base in Virginia on Saturday, as President Donald Trump promises more budget to beef up defense.

Trump presided over the Ford's commissioning on Saturday morning at Pier 11 on Naval Station Norfolk, a navy base in the Commonwealth of Virginia, in the presence of high-ranking U.S. officials, military officers, sailors, and crowds of civilians, in an intense heat.

MORE MILITARY BUDGET PROMISED

"After today where this ship sails, you will all carry a proud title -- plank owner of the USS Gerald R. Ford," Trump said at the commissioning.

While praising what he described as an "incredible achievement" in building the Navy's latest and largest ship, Trump expressed his dissatisfaction with an insufficient input in new military technology and a decline in military readiness under the previous administration.

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Nieghbor News

China Unicom Says Talks with Strategic Investors Ongoing

BEIJING - Telecommunications operator China United Network Communications said on Sunday it is still in talks with potential strategic investors and has not yet signed any binding agreements.

Reuters reported on Friday that Baidu Inc and will join other big Chinese technology firms, including Tencent Holdings, to jointly invest about \$12 billion into the company, a Shanghai-listed unit of state-owned carrier China Unicom.

The report cited sources saying the share sale plan is likely to be finalized by late August.

The move is part of the Chinese government's drive to rejuvenate state behemoths with private capital. Beijing added China Unicom last year to a first batch of state-

owned enterprises to see mixed-ownership reform.

The company said last month it intends to bring in private investors via a private placement as it looks to better compete with larger competitors China Mobile and China Telecom in China's tightly controlled telecom market.

Share trading in China Unicom's Shanghai-listed unit has been halted since it said in early April it would be part of the government's mixed-ownership pilot.

Prior to that suspension, the unit's market value topped \$23 billion. In its filing to the Shanghai Stock Exchange, China United Network Communications said it had noticed media reports about its plan to attract new investors. (Reuters)

CPEC to Bring Economic Revolution: Masood

ISLAMABAD - President Azad Jammu & Kashmir Sardar Masood Khan Saturday said China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) would ultimately bring about an economic revolution in Pakistan and Azad Jammu & Kashmir.

He was addressing a seminar titled 'Mainstreaming Environment in CPEC Projects - Special Economic Zone Mirpur,' hosted by Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) at a local hotel. Masood Khan said Azad Jammu & Kashmir State would also be the beneficiary of the gigantic project since four projects have been approved under CPEC - including Kohala and Karot Hydropower projects respectively in Muzaffarabad and Kotli

Districts, the Quadruple M Expressway from Mansehra to Muzaffarabad-Mirpur to Mangla and a Special Economic Industrial Zone to be set up in Mirpur.

Highlighting the broad-based prospects of CPEC in Azad Jammu & Kashmir, President Masood said it would not only be an opportunity for infrastructure development, energy and industry but also a catalyst for promoting ecotourism and establishing biological and wildlife corridors.

Biodiversity sites along the Corridor will be preserved and developed, he added.

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Iran, Iraq Sign MoU to Boost Defense Ties

TEHRAN - Iran and Iraq signed an agreement on Sunday to boost cooperation in a host of military fields, Tasnim news agency reported.

The agreement was signed between the Iranian Defense Minister Hossein Dehqan and his visiting Iraqi counterpart Erfan al-Hiyali.

The agreement encourages promotion of interaction and share of experiences in the fight against terrorism and extremism, border security, training and logistical, technical and military support.

Speaking to reporters after signing the document, the two ministers expressed hope that the agreement would result in deeper and more serious military cooperation between the two countries.

Heading a military delegation, Hayali arrived in Tehran on Saturday for an official visit.

On Saturday, Dehqan said that Iran would continue to provide full support to Iraqi and its government to establish security and stability.

"We have cooperated and will cooperate with the Iraqi government and the nation and will continue our support," Dehqan said in a meeting with al-Hiyali.

"We will also use our utmost political, economic and military capabilities along with Iraq's capabilities to establish sustainable security and stability in the country and create a powerful Iraq," he added. (Xinhua)

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Turkmenistan Boosting Gas Chemical Industry

ASHGABAT - Turkmenistan plans to build several big gas chemical complexes, a source in the country's fuel and energy industry said.

Here the matter rests in the production of polyethylene, polypropylene, polyvinyl chloride, monoethylene glycol, dimethyl ether and other chemical products with help of the modern technologies used for extraction of ethane from natural gas, as well as using the methanol to olefin

technology for methane recovery and processing. Moreover, work continues to construct a plant for the production of liquid petroleum products from natural gas (using GTL technology). According to the source, Turkmenistan is ready to study other proposals of foreign investors on investment projects aimed at high-technology processing of natural gas and the production of export-oriented products. (Trend)

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