

'UK Courts Must Keep Jurisdiction over EU Citizens' Rights in Britain: Davis

PRAGUE - British courts should protect the rights of European Union citizens living in the country after it leaves the bloc, Brexit minister David Davis said on Tuesday, defending Britain's rejection of the EU's position.

Protecting the rights of EU citizens living in Britain and of Britons in the remaining 27 EU countries after the British exit from the bloc is major sticking point as talks between London and Brussels on Brexit get under way.

Britain has opposed EU insistence on the rights of 3 million Europeans in Britain being guaranteed by recourse to the European Court of Justice. Davis, when asked if Britain was



willing to compromise, said: "We are intent that this should be put in an act in of parliament enforced by British courts ... and most importantly backed up by a treaty." "When we, for example, sign a deal, let's say with the United States, we don't give the United States Supreme Court the right to enforce that," he said at a news conference in Prague after a regular meeting with Czech Foreign Minister Lubomir Zaoralek. Davis said Britain took "seriously the requirement to give certainty to European citizens". EU and British negotiators held their first full round of Brexit talks last week. Davis, leading the British side, said they got off to a "good start". (Reuters)

NATO Offers to Mediate between Germany, Turkey over Military Base Dispute

BERLIN - NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg has offered to mediate between Berlin and Ankara on Tuesday with regards to the ongoing dispute over the visiting rights of German parliamentarians at the Turkish NATO base in Konya. Germany has stationed troops in Konya which participate in the international effort against the so-called "Islamic State" in nearby Syria and Iraq. Turkish policymakers, however, have revoked the visiting rights of German parliamentarians at

the base following an escalation of long-standing diplomatic tensions between Berlin and Ankara. According to a representative of the secretary general, Stoltenberg proposed organizing a visit of parliamentarians at the airbase within the framework of NATO.

"We hope to find a mutually acceptable solution for both sides as soon as possible," said the representative, emphasizing the significance of Konya for regional deployments. Already tense relations between Germany and



Turkey were put under additional strain when the Turkish government cancelled an already approved visit of German parliamentarians in Konya. Previously, Turkish president Erdogan had banned German lawmakers from visiting soldiers at the Incirlik base, resulting in the transfer of affected troops to Jordan. (Xinhua)

NYC Mayor Objects Trump's Decision of withdrawing U.S. From Paris Agreement

NEW YORK - The mayor of New York City, Bill de Blasio, said on Monday that he has joined a group of U.S. mayors to say "No" to U.S. President Donald Trump's decision of withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change. De Blasio said in an event titled "The Urban Resilience Summit 2017" in New York on Monday that there had been 350 U.S. mayors coming together to say "No" to the president and "Yes" to a future our children can

thrive in." Earlier this year, Trump announced that he had decided to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, a landmark global pact to fight climate change. Calling the agreement "hamstrings" the United States while "empowers" other countries, Trump said the United States would begin negotiations to re-enter the agreement. However, he also indicated that re-entry may not be a top priority for his administration. (Xinhua)

Progress with Russia over Air-Defence System: Erdogan

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday announced progress in talks to get Russia to supply its latest S-400 air-defence system to Ankara. "We have signed with Russia. God willing, we will see S-400s in our country," Erdogan said in a speech to his ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) lawmakers in parliament. It was not clear what part of the deal for a potential sale of the hi-tech system by Russia had been signed between Moscow and Ankara. But late Monday, Erdogan

said most of the meetings for the deal had been completed. Erdogan hit back against any potential criticism of the sale, pointing to NATO ally Greece's use of the Russian-made S-300 anti-aircraft missile system. "Why didn't anyone say anything then? Why are they uncomfortable when it is Turkey?" Erdogan asked. If the deal is completed, it would be a significant step after the two countries repaired relations damaged by Ankara's downing of a Russian warplane on the Syrian border in 2015. (AFP)

EU Trade Group Warns Against Rising Tide of Protectionism

BRUSSELS - A European Union (EU) trade group on Monday warned on rising tide of protectionism in advanced economies, saying it is "short-sighted and ultimately self-defeating". "The IMF has issued its latest six-monthly World Economic Outlook, which again marked a continued shift towards protectionism in advanced economies," noted a statement by EuroCommerce, a trade group representing the retail and wholesale trade sector.

The statement said the IMF report, other recent reports as well as the direct experience of retailers, wholesalers and traders show that there is a continued move away from open trading policies. "Too many countries in and outside the EU are trying to gain a marginal advantage by creating new barriers to businesses seeking to offer choice and good service to consumers," said Christian Verschuere, director-general of EuroCommerce. "This is short-sighted



and ultimately self-defeating, hindering countries' own growth and the creation of new jobs," he added. Verschuere noted trade protectionism is also undermining the EU Single Market. "An unfinished and fragmented Single Market costs consumers and businesses billions of euros every year," he said. (Xinhua)

Germany Sees Significant Drop in Refugee Arrivals in June

BERLIN - The number of refugees arriving in Germany fell significantly in June compared to the same period last year, according to a report Tuesday citing data from the federal police. In total, police registered 3,873 illegal border crossings last month, compared to 6,652 in June 2016. Most illegal immigrants (1,276) were intercepted by authorities at the German-Austrian border. A year ago, the figure had been as high as 3,537. The number of refugees arriving via Switzerland fell even more dramatically, from 1,010 in June 2016 to 388 in June 2017. Most of the refugees indicated that their country of origin was Syria, followed by Afghanistan, Nigeria, Iraq and Somalia. (Xinhua)

Belarus' Nuclear Power Plant to Become Operational by 2020

MINSK - The Belarusian Nuclear Power Plant Will be Fully Put into Operation in the Summer of 2020, Rosatom Director General Alexei Likhachev said on Monday. While meeting with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko, Likhachev said Russia's State Atomic Energy Corporation (Rosatom) adheres to the agreement made between the Belarusian head of state and the Russian president in 2012 that the project was to build the safest and the most modern nuclear station in Europe, local media reported. "This is a new generation of security. In the world there are no such analogues," Alexei Likhachev said. Lukashenko said Belarus pays great attention to the construction of the nuclear power plant. (Xinhua)

UAE, U.S. Discuss Ways to Strengthen Defense, Counterterrorism Cooperation

DUBAI - Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan on Monday discussed with a visiting U.S. commander ways to boost cooperation in defense and fighting terrorism, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) news agency WAM reported. At the meeting between Sheikh Mohammed, also deputy supreme commander of the UAE armed forces, with Joseph Votel, commander of the U.S. Central Command, the two sides



reviewed "joint efforts in combating extremism and terrorism." They agreed on "the importance of enhancing such cooperation to serve the common interests of the two friendly coun-

tries and safeguard the security and stability of the region." They also exchanged views on the latest developments in the region as well as a number of issues of common concern. (Xinhua)

US Navy Ship Fires Warning Shots near Iranian Ship

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - A U.S. Navy patrol boat fired warning shots Tuesday near an Iranian vessel that came close to it during a tense encounter in the Persian Gulf, an American defense official said. The incident involving the USS Thunderbolt, a Cyclone-class patrol ship based in Bahrain as part of the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet, is the latest confrontation between Iranian vessels and American warships. The Thunderbolt was taking part in an exercise with American and other coalition vessels when the Iranian patrol

boat approached it, the official said. The Iranian ship did not respond to radio calls, flares and sirens as it came within 150 yards (137 meters) of the Thunderbolt, forcing the U.S. sailors aboard to fire the warning shots, the official said. The Iranian boat went "dead in the water" after the shots and the vessels all left the area without further incident, the official said. The official spoke on condition of anonymity as the incident had yet to be made public. Iranian officials and state-run media there did not immediately acknowledge the incident. (AP)

Arab League Warns Against Migration Crisis in Arab Region

CAIRO - The Arab League (AL) warned on Tuesday against "the increasing waves of migration to the Arab region," according to an AL official. "The Arab countries hosted in 2016 more than 26 million Arab migrants compared to 26 million in 2015, without counting those passing through the region for short time until reaching Europe," said Bader el-Din Alali, AL assistant general secretary of the social issues. The region is facing unprecedented challenges, Alali said in his speech to the extraordinary meeting of the Arab regional consultation on immigration and asylum. "The situation is deteriorating every year along with the growing burden of the hosting countries," he said. The AL diplomat reiterated that the Arab region is "the source of migration and the first among countries hosting migrants," adding that the Palestinians constitute half of the world refugees. "Egypt plays a pioneering international role in dealing with migrants, refugees and trafficking efficiently at all levels," Mohamed Ghoneim, Egypt's assistant Foreign Minister for Refugees and Human Trafficking, said at the sideline of the meeting. Egypt is working with a growing number of countries to settle the crisis, and promoting development as the main motivation for illegal migrations, Ghoneim said. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Xi Calls for United Efforts to Deepen Military Reform

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping has called for all-out efforts to push forward military reform with the support of the entire nation and the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee and chairman of the Central Military Commission (CMC), made the remarks Monday afternoon at a group study attended by members of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee.

The group study focused on reform of the military in size, structure, and formation. Carried out in a bold and resolute way, national defense and military reform has taken historic steps and achieved historic breakthroughs and achievements in major fields, pumping great power into building a strong army, Xi said.

The reform mainly includes optimizing the country's military size, structure, and formation, and solving structural contradictions that hinder the development of national defense and the armed forces, he said. As the reform deepens, China will have a smaller army with better combat capability and optimized structure, the president said.

"Quantity should be reduced and quality improved to build a capable and efficient army, and labor intensity should become S&T-oriented," Xi said, adding that China is developing a joint operation force system with an elite force at its core.

He reiterated that reform on national defense and armed forces is an overall and revolutionary change, with unprecedented strength, depth and breadth. (Xinhua)

Govt Taking Steps to Eradicate Terrorism: Khurram

ISLAMABAD - Federal Minister for Commerce Khurram Dastagir said the present government had taken steps to eradicate menace of terrorism from the country.

The government had achieved the results through operation Zarb-e-Azb and Rad-dul Fasaad, he said this while talking to a private news channel.

The action had been taken against hate speech and other crimes, he said. The elements in-

involved in the hate speech and other crimes had been arrested and given punishment according to the law. Condemning Lahore blast in which several innocent people were killed and injured, he said the government had made legislation and counter-terrorism departments in all the provinces.

He said there was need to share information with all law enforcement agencies to tackle the issue effectively. (APP)

Iran Urges End to Use of Terrorism as Means

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman has denounced a powerful terrorist explosion in the eastern Pakistani city of Lahore, saying the only way to fight violence is stopping the use of terrorism as a means.

"We believe that the only way to get rid of the wave of violence and terror in the region and the world is to deal with this ominous phenomenon sincerely," Bahram Qassemi said on Tuesday. Iran also believes that the renunciation of the use of

terrorism as a means for political purposes and based on double standards would end acts of violence and terror, he added.

He emphasized that resorting to violence and terrorism emanates from a decadent ideology that has nothing to say but the rhetoric of force and violence. The Iranian spokesperson also expressed his sympathy with the Pakistani government, nation and the bereaved families of the victims of the Monday terrorist attack. (Presstv)

IMF Ready to Support Uzbekistan in Economy Reforming

TASHKENT - The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is ready to provide support to Uzbekistan in reforming its economy, the IMF said in a message after the visit of its mission led by Mr. Albert Jaeger to Tashkent July 17-24. "The IMF stands ready to provide further technical cooperation and

policy advice to support the authorities' reform plans," the IMF said. The mission welcomed the authorities' comprehensive plans to reform the economy, based on the 2017-21 strategy for further developing Uzbekistan approved by President Shavkat Mirziyoyev. (Trend)

Georgia Says Ready to Expand Partnership with Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - President of Georgia Giorgi Margvelashvili sent a letter to his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries, the Turkmen government said in a message. In his letter, Margvelashvili expressed readiness to deepen and expand mutually beneficial partnership with Turkmenistan. The Georgian president

pointed out the high level of bilateral relations built upon the principles of friendship and mutual respect, reads the government message. It was earlier reported that Ashgabat and Tbilisi are studying projects on creation of transport and transit infrastructure between the Caspian and Black Sea regions, the use of which will ensure broad interregional integration with the states of Europe and the Middle East. (Trend)