

# UN Chief Calls on World to Back Paris Climate Deal

NEW YORK - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Tuesday called on all leaders of government, business, and civil society to back the Paris climate change agreement and take actions to slow down global warming.

In his first major speech on climate action, Guterres promised that he will intensify high-level political engagement to "raise the bar" on climate action.

"The Paris pledges are historic but still do not go nearly far enough to limit temperature rise to well below 2 degrees and as close as possible to 1.5 degrees," said Guterres in an address at New York University.

"So we must do our utmost



to increase ambition and action until we can bend the emissions curve and slow down global warming," he added.

"Yet, not everyone will move at the same pace or with equal vigor," he said. "But if any government doubts the global will and need for this accord, that is reason for all others to unite even stronger and stay the course."

The Paris Agreement was adopted by 196 parties in Paris in 2015 and it went into effect in November. The pact sets a target of holding the global average rise in temperature below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, and preferably below 1.5 degrees Celsius. (Xinhua)

## Russia Ready to Cooperate with European Partners to Fight Terrorism: Putin

MOSCOW - Russia is ready to cooperate with its European partners to fight terrorism, for which all countries should make concerted efforts, Russian President Vladimir Putin has said. Although it is difficult for Russia to conduct a dialogue with its European partners due to their changing position, the country is ready to cooperate with them, Putin said in an interview with Le Figaro newspaper published Tuesday. "We need to conduct a specific dialogue, ... we need to



engage in practical work," Putin said. Putin also said he would do everything possible to ensure that the 2018 election campaigns

are carried out in strict adherence to the Russian Constitution. "Anyone entitled to run, anyone who fulfills the relevant procedures prescribed by law, can and will participate, if they wish, in elections at all levels," he said. (Xinhua)

## UN Yemen Envoy Troubled by Parties' Reluctance to Make Concessions Needed for Peace

UNITED NATIONS - The UN envoy to Yemen said on Tuesday that he was troubled with the reluctance of the key parties in Yemen to embrace the concessions needed for peace. While briefing the Security Council, Ismail Ould Sheikh Ahmed, the UN Secretary-General's Special Envoy, said "the violence continues on numerous fronts, deepening the suffering of the Yemeni people." The envoy said that "we are not close to a comprehensive agreement," adding that "the reluctance of the key parties to embrace

the concessions needed for peace, or even discuss them, remains extremely troubling." The envoy said that he made clear to the parties during his recent meetings in Yemen that they must reach a compromise on the situation in the war-torn port city of Al-Hodeidah in order to prevent such a horrific scenario. He appealed to the parties to stop fighting for power and strive to build a country that respects the rights of all its citizens, a country with a prosperous economy, and strong institutions. (Xinhua)

## German FM Plays Down Spat between Merkel and Trump

BERLIN - German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel on Tuesday tried to smooth things over the recent verbal battle between Germany and United States, saying talk over beer tent and Twitter "not appropriate". Gabriel admitted in a press meeting that "it's true that we have a difficult situation in relations between Germany and U.S." but he believed "we will come back to good relations in the future." After an unsatisfactory G7 summit, German Chancellor Angela

Merkel on Sunday made a campaign speech in a Bavarian beer tent, grumbling Europe's alignment with the U.S. and Britain. She said following the election of the U.S. President Donald Trump and Brexit, Europeans "really have to take destiny into their own hands." Some of the G7 agendas were especially tough for Merkel, among them was the rise of protectionism and the discussion about Paris agreement on climate change, which Trump refused to endorse. (Xinhua)

## EU Moves Step forward to Capital Market Union

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) moved a step forward to its ambitious single capital market union as institutions agreed on reviving the bloc's securitization market on Tuesday. The EU's three institutions, the European Council, the Parliament and the executive European Commission, agreed on a package that sets out criteria for simple, transparent and standardised securitization, said the commission in a statement. The deal stood "one of cornerstones" of the Capital

Markets Union, the incumbent EU leaders' pivotal project, and was expected to unlock up to 150 billion euros of additional funding to the real economy, said the statement. "This agreement will free up bank lending so that more financing can go towards supporting our companies and households," said Valdis Dombrovskis, the commission's vice president responsible for Financial Stability, Financial Services and Capital Markets Union. According to the commission, securitization can allow diversification of funding sources and a broader distribution of



risk by allowing banks to transfer the risk of some exposures to other institutions or long-term investors, such as insurance companies and asset managers. (Xinhua)

## White House Downplays Tensions with German Leader

WASHINGTON - The White House on Tuesday downplayed the increased tension between U.S. President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel, saying the two "get along very well."

"They get along very well. He has a lot of respect for her (Merkel)," White House spokesman Sean Spicer said here at a daily briefing. "And he views not just Germany but the rest of Europe as an important American ally."

Early on Tuesday, Trump called Germany's trade and military spending policies "very bad" for the United States as tensions between him and Merkel increased.

"We have a MASSIVE trade deficit with Germany, plus they pay FAR LESS than they should on NATO and military," Trump wrote on Twitter, adding "very bad for U.S. This will change." (Xinhua)

## Britain's May in Saudi Arabia Seeking Deals

RIYADH - British Prime Minister Theresa May held talks with Saudi officials on Tuesday, hoping to tap the oil-rich kingdom's "immense potential" as she looks to secure post-Brexit investment and trade.

May has come under harsh criticism over her Saudi visit, facing calls at home to raise rights issues with local leaders.

The visit also comes less than a week after Britain officially started a two-year countdown for quitting the European Union. May has said that economic issues were a priority on her trip, but maintains she will not shy away from addressing "hard issues" on foreign visits. (AFP)

## Putin Lifts Several Economic Sanctions against Turkey

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin has signed a decree to lift several economic sanctions that have been imposed on Turkey since it downed a Russian jet in November 2015, the Kremlin said Wednesday. The decree abolishes restrictions on the operation of Turkish companies in Russia and on the employment of Turkish citizens in the country. It also allows more Turkish nationals, including aircraft crews, business travelers and diplomats, to visit Russia visa-free. Russia has imposed



a series of economic sanctions on Turkey, including prohibiting imports of certain commodities, banning trips, suspending the visa-free regime and freezing plans to build a new pipeline to carry Russian natural gas to Europe via

Turkey. Russia-Turkey relations have been recovering since Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan apologized in June 2016 to Putin for the downing of a Russian fighter near the Syrian-Turkish border. (Xinhua)

## Turkey Not to Open Incirlik to German Officials Unless "Positive Steps" Seen: FM

ANKARA - Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said Tuesday that Turkey will not open its Incirlik air base to German lawmakers who want to meet German soldiers stationed there unless Germany takes "positive steps." "It is not possible to open the Incirlik base for visit, but we might reconsider the decision in the future if we see 'positive steps' from Germany," Cavusoglu said at a press conference with his Gabonese counterpart Pacome Moubelet Boubeya, the state-run Anadolu Agency reported. German Chancellor Angela Merkel said on Thursday that her country was likely to withdraw soldiers from Incirlik air base following Turkey denied permissions

for German lawmakers' visit last week. Cavusoglu said he will hold talks with German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel in Ankara next week, but he stressed that the visit remains "out of the question." The talks with Gabriel will focus on strained ties between the two countries, the foreign minister added. Relations between Turkey and Germany have been strained when German lawmakers cancelled last Wednesday a much expected trip to Ankara to conduct political talks amid bitter differences between the two NATO allies. A small delegation of German MPs was scheduled to visit Turkish capital for a three-day visit. (Xinhua)

## Russia Launches Missile Strikes Against IS in Syria

MOSCOW - The Russian Navy successfully struck all Islamic State targets in the ancient Syrian city of Palmyra, the Defense Ministry said Wednesday.

The Admiral Essen frigate and Krasnodar submarine launched four Kalibr cruise missiles from the eastern Mediterranean against the IS positions with heavy equipment and militant manpower transferred from Raqqa, the IS stronghold in northern Syria, the ministry said in a statement. The statement also said Russia had informed the U.S., Turkish and Israeli military forces of the strike in advance. (Xinhua)

## Pentagon Reportedly Starts Arming Syrian Kurds Despite Turkey's Opposition

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Defense Department has started arming Syrian Kurds in their fight against the Islamic State (IS), despite strong objections of the Turkish government, according to U.S. media. Citing two Pentagon officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, NBC News reported on Tuesday that the provision of the military equipment began in the last 24 hours. So far, it remained unknown what the Pentagon was sending to the Kurdish elements of the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). Currently, the U.S.-led coalition against the IS is backing the SDF, comprised of mostly the People's Protection Units (YPG) Kurds and some local Arabs. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### China, Russia Share Much to Expand Economic Cooperation

MOSCOW - Roughly three months ahead of a BRICS summit to be held in China, Russian analysts saw immense potential to increase and diversify economic cooperation between Russia and China.

Vast opportunities can be created during the development of the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative and the process of Russia's import substitution industrialization, experts said, adding that closer economic ties between the two strategic partners will be mutually beneficial.

They also believe China-Russia trade should be expanded to more non-energy sectors so that bilateral economic cooperation can develop in a sustainable way. These remarks were

made at a time when BRICS countries - Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa - are busy preparing for the ninth summit of the bloc's leaders on Sept. 3-5 in Xiamen City in east China's Fujian Province.

INFRASTRUCTURE, INDUSTRIAL INVESTMENT

The development of transport facilities is one of the key problems Russia faces, given its vast territory and low quality of roads and railways.

"Chinese investment and joint projects will play a major role in the vast areas of Siberia and the Far East, as well as in other parts of Russia," said Sergei Luzyanin, director of the Far Eastern Studies Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. (Xinhua)

### Iran Signs Agreements with Russia to Develop Gas Fields

TEHRAN - Iran has signed a number of basic agreements with the Russian Gazprom to develop its gas fields in the southern region of the country, Press TV reported on Wednesday. Iran's Petroleum Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh said that the country has signed an agreement with Gazprom over the development of Farzad B gas field, a project which the country has for long been negotiating with an Indian consortium.

Iran has also signed two other basic agreements with Gazprom over the development of North Pars and Kish gas fields. The agreements could give Gazprom a strong foothold in Iran's gas industry once finalized

and implemented. Besides, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) announced Sunday that it would hold an international tender for the development of major oil field in southwest of the country.

By Friday, the tender would be held for the much-awaited development project of Azadegan oil field in the southwestern province of Khuzestan, Ali Kardor, the managing director of the NIOC, said.

Invitation letters have been sent to 29 international companies to submit their proposals, Kardor said, adding that the Shell, Total, CNPC, Sinopec, Lukoil, Pertamina, and OMV are among the companies to attend the tender. (Xinhua)

### Sharif Orders Audit of Circular Debt Claims

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Tuesday ordered a special audit of fresh circular debt claims of Rs480 billion and third-party analysis of the power demand-and-supply situation on the basis of projects that are coming up for commercial operations.

While presiding over a meeting of the cabinet committee on energy, the prime minister directly asked former water and power secretary Younus Dagha questions about the rosy days he had promised last year.

A senior official told Dawn that Mr Dagha, who was called on the

prime minister's special instruction, termed the prevailing situation "a management problem". Otherwise, there was no "exceptional surge" in demand, he said. He told the meeting that demand and supply numbers were almost unchanged from last year, even though fresh generation capacity had also come on line. Mr Dagha told the prime minister that he would be involved in the micromanagement of distribution and generation companies and kept their workforce on its toes. He said it was still a management issue and could be managed. (Monitoring Desk)

### Ashgabat, Delhi Mull Migration, Regional Stability and Security

ASHGABAT - Turkmen officials and Indian Deputy National Security Adviser Arvind Gupta exchanged views on a number of regional and international issues during a meeting in Turkmenistan's Foreign Ministry. The issues in such spheres as migration, regional stability and security, cooperation in cyber-security, combating illicit drug trafficking and smuggling, and extremism were discussed, the ministry said May 30.

The most important vector of economic ties between Turkmenistan and India is the partnership in the fuel and energy sector, in which a special role is assigned to the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) transnational gas pipeline.

"The Indian side stressed that the implementation of this project is an example of a strategic vision of the participating countries," the ministry's message said.

"This project is also a chance for India to diversify its sources of energy supply." (Trend)