

# U.S. Ties with China Important for Stability in Asia-Pacific: Pentagon Chief

SINGAPORE - U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis said here on Saturday that the U.S. relations with China are important for the stability in the Asia-Pacific region. Addressing a plenary session of the Shangri-La Dialogue, Mattis said that as China occupies a position of influence in the Pacific, "we welcome China's economic development." While competition between the United States and China, the world's two largest economies, is bound to occur and conflict is not inevitable, "our two countries can and do cooperate for mutual benefit. We will work closely with China where we



share common cause," Mattis said. "We seek a constructive, results-oriented relationship with China. We believe the United States can engage China diplomatically and economically to ensure our relationship is beneficial not only to the United States and China, but also to the region and to the world," he added. At the dialogue organized by the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, senior military officials, diplomats and experts will discuss such topics as nuclear issues, security cooperation and measures to avoid conflicts. (Xinhua)

## Nieghbor News

### Chinese, Russian Officials Laud Bilateral Military Ties

SINGAPORE - Chinese and Russian officials spoke highly of the military ties between the two countries on Saturday as they met on the sidelines of the Shangri-La Dialogue being held in Singapore. The China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination is at its all-time high, Lt. Gen. He Lei, vice president of the Academy of Military Science of the Chinese People's Liberation Army said while meeting with Russian Deputy Defense Minister Alexander Fomin. Leaders of the two countries paid much attention to bilateral military cooperation, laying a solid political foundation for the healthy and steady development of the military ties between the

two countries, He said. In recent years, the two militaries have worked together to implement the important consensus reached between leaders of the two countries and push for the pragmatic cooperation and exchange between the two militaries with new achievements, he said. The two militaries have seen deepening ties and higher level cooperation, the senior Chinese military officer said. Fomin, for his part, attributed the healthy and steady development of bilateral military ties to close relationship between the leaders of the two countries, the independent foreign policies pursued by the two countries and their shared views on the multipolar world, among other key issues. (Xinhua)

## World Forges Ahead with Paris Climate Deal without Trump

BRUSSELS - The world forged ahead on Friday with the Paris climate deal after President Donald Trump pulled the US out of the pact, triggering bitter condemnation from all corners of the globe. Trump announced Thursday that his administration would immediately stop implementing the 195-nation accord brokered by Barack Obama in 2015 in tandem with Chinese leaders. The European Union said it was increasing efforts with China, the world's

biggest polluter, to galvanise global efforts to implement the deal while India vowed to stick to the pact regardless of the United States. Trump also faced a backlash at home where Democratic state governors, city mayors and powerful companies drew up plans to meet the pact's greenhouse gas emission targets. "Americans will honour and fulfill the Paris agreement by leading from the bottom up - and there isn't anything Washington



can do to stop us," former New York mayor and billionaire Michael Bloomberg said. However, Russian President Vladimir

### BRICS Media Forum to be Held in Beijing next Week

BEIJING - The BRICS Media Forum, to be held in Beijing from June 7 to 8, will be attended by the leaders of 25 media groups from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa. The attendees will discuss topics including multimedia innovation for media development, as well as media outlets' duty and social responsibility. The forum next week aims to improve the high-end dialogue platform for the mainstream media of BRICS countries, as well as advance

innovation and promote fairness and justice of international public opinion. During the forum, there will be a BRICS Media Joint Photo Exhibition to show the development and cooperation achievements of BRICS. Proposed by Xinhua, the forum is jointly organized by the mainstream media groups of BRICS countries. China, which took over the BRICS presidency this year, will host the Ninth BRICS Summit in September in Xiamen, Fujian Province. (Xinhua)

### Syrian Army Kills 1,200 IS Fighters in Aleppo Countryside: State Media

DAMASCUS - At least 1,200 Islamic State (IS) fighters were killed during a wide-scale military offensive in Syria's northern province of Aleppo, state news agency SANA reported on Saturday. The state news agency said the Syrian army captured 22 new villages in the southeastern countryside of Aleppo, as part of the ongoing military campaign in that part of the country. SANA has stopped short of giving a time-

frame for the operation that led to the killing of the IS militants, but the army has started its operations in eastern Aleppo countryside earlier this year, following the recapture of the eastern part of Aleppo city last December. The army also unleashed recently the Great Dawn offensive on IS in the Syrian desert in central and eastern Syria, making notable gains against IS. (Xinhua)

## Chinese Official Calls for Enhanced Strategic Mutual Trust Between China, U.S.

SINGAPORE - China and the United States should enhance strategic mutual trust and make greater contribution to peace and stability in the Asia-Pacific and beyond, a senior Chinese military official said on Saturday. Lt. Gen. He Lei, vice president of the Academy of Military Science of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, made the remarks at a press briefing on the sidelines of the ongoing Shangri-La Dialogue. China highly values and cherishes the relations with the United States, He said,

stressing that as two major countries in the world, relations between China and the United States have an impact on the security and stability not only between themselves, but also in the Asia-Pacific and beyond. The senior Chinese military official said the friendly and fruitful talks between Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump in April at the Mar-a-Lago resort in the U.S. state of Florida have laid the foundation and charted the course for development of relations between



the two countries. Noting that the relations between the militaries of China and the United States are an important part of the ties between the two countries, he called on the two sides

to stick to the principles of non-conflict, non-confrontation, mutual respect and win-win cooperation; strengthen strategic mutual trust and enhance risk control. (Xinhua)

### Damascus Did not Use Chemical Weapons: Putin

ST. PETERSBURG - Russian President Vladimir Putin said Friday that the Syrian government force did not use chemical weapons to kill civilians in April. "Toxic gas was possibly used by someone else but not President Bashar al-Assad. The incident was used to incriminate him," said Putin during a discussion at a plenary session of the annual St. Petersburg International Economic Forum. On April 7, the United States launched 59 cruise missiles against a Syrian military airfield in the province of Homs, after the West accused Damascus of gassing civilians in Khan Sheikhoun in the province of Idlib on April 4. The Syrian government said it has destroyed all chemical weapons and repeatedly denied the accusation. Russia said the... (More on P4)... (16)

### Climate Action Continues Despite U.S. Withdrawal: COP22 President

RABAT - Salaheddine Mezouar, the president of the 22nd Conference of the parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (COP22), said global climate action will continue despite the decision of U.S. President Donald Trump to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, local media reported on Saturday. "Despite this decision, climate action remains undeniable and irreversible. Our collective efforts to fight climate change don't stop, not here, not today, quite the contrary they accelerate," the daily Le Matin cited a statement from Mezouar.



"We will maintain our spirit of collaboration and ambition adopted in the Marrakech Proclamation and we will continue to pursue our collective efforts to fully implement the Paris Agreement," he added. "Today, we reaf-

firm, more than ever, our commitment to collective action for our climate and sustainable development, in particular for the most vulnerable. The future of our children and our planet depends on us," he concluded. (Xinhua)

### Major U.S. University Says Trump Misused its Climate Research

WASHINGTON - The Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) said U.S. President Donald Trump has misused its climate research to justify his decision of withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement on climate change. "Even if the Paris Agreement were implemented in full, with total compliance from all nations, it is estimated it would only produce a two-tenths of one degree - think of that, this much - Celsius reduction in global temperature by the year 2100," Trump said Thursday during his announcement Thursday. "Tiny, tiny amount." According to an MIT statement released Thursday on its website, Trump was referring to an analysis from the university's Joint Program on the Science and Policy of Global Change, but his interpretation was "misleading." "The 0.2 degree-figure used in the talking point reflects the incremental impact of the Paris Agreement compared with the earlier Copenhagen agreement," the statement said. "If you instead compare the impact of the Paris Agreement to no climate policy, then the temperature reduction is much larger, on the order of one degree Celsius ... by 2100," it continued. "This would be a significant reduction in the global temperature rise, though much more is needed if the world is to achieve its goal of limiting warming to two degrees Celsius or less." In addition, the MIT said that its analysis accounts only for countries' pledges under the Paris Agreement, assuming no further strengthening of the commitments in years after 2030. (Xinhua)

### US Hackers Could have Framed Russia in Election Hack: Putin Tells NBC

MOSCOW - American hackers could have planted false evidence that Russia interfered in the U.S. presidential election, President Vladimir Putin was quoted as saying by NBC News on Saturday. U.S. intelligence officials have said Russia tried to interfere in the U.S. election by hacking the Democratic Party to sway the vote in favor of Donald Trump, a charge the Kremlin has repeatedly denied. In an interview with NBC News' Sunday Night with Megyn Kelly, a preview of which was released... (More on P4)... (17)

### U.S. Secretary of State Downplays Significance of Paris Agreement Exit Amid Discord

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson on Friday downplayed the significance of U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to leave the Paris Agreement amid widespread discord both at home and abroad. "I don't think we're going to change our ongoing efforts to reduce those emissions in the future," said Tillerson here before his meeting with visiting Brazilian counterpart Aloysio Nunes Ferreira. It was the first time that Tillerson, who reportedly opposed the U.S. withdrawal

from the landmark global pact to fight climate change, made public comments on the issue after Trump's announcement on Thursday. After almost 5-month-old frenzied speculation across the world, Trump on Thursday announced his decision to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, arguing that the Paris Agreement "hamstrings" the United States while "empowers" other countries. Trump said the United States would begin negotiations to... (More on P4)... (18)

### Govt Will Complete its Tenure Come what may: Sharif

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Thursday said that the government would complete its five-year constitutional tenure despite all challenges. The premier held an informal talk with the media after participating in the joint session of parliament, and said, "The opposition created a show as always. People are watching opposition's behaviour and government's work." The prime minister said, "The 'performers' continued 'performing' and the president continued addressing the joint sitting to fulfil constitutional obligations." The prime minister also said that the president's address to the joint sitting

was good and positive. When asked about the attitude of the opposition parties during the president's address, he said that his remarks and the whole nation's remarks about the opposition were the same. Earlier, the PM looked in a pleasant mood when he entered parliament, and shook hands with members. Nawaz Sharif remained calm despite the opposition's slogans and met the members of coalition parties after the speech of President Mamnoon Hussain. It is worth mentioning here that the opposition parties, while chanting 'Go Nawaz Go' slogans, walked out as Mamnoon Hussain started his address. (Monitoring Desk)

### UN Watchdog: Iran Staying Committed to Nuclear Deal

TEHRAN - The Agency has been monitoring Iran's nuclear activity since January 16, 2016 (JCPOA Implementation Day) and verifies its commitments in accordance with the Agency's standards, said IAEA Director General Yukiya Amano in the report, a copy of which was received by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA), referring to the landmark agreement signed between Iran and the five permanent members of United Nations Security Council plus Germany, known also as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action. "Iran has not pursued the construction of the Arak heavy water research reactor (IR-40 Reactor) based on its original design and Iran has not

produced or tested natural uranium pellets, fuel pins or fuel assemblies specifically designed for the support of the IR-40 Reactor as originally designed, and all existing natural uranium pellets and fuel assemblies have remained in storage under continuous Agency monitoring," the report says. The report goes on to acknowledge that Iran has been totally consistent with its commitments on informing the Agency about its inventory and production of heavy water, as well as allowing it to monitor the stocks and the production process, saying that Iran's stock of heavy water was 128.2 metric tons and "it had no more than 130 metric tons of the heavy water" during the reporting periods. (IRNA)

### Uzbekistan to Improve Emergency Situations' Prevention System

TASHKENT - Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev by his decree has defined the tasks of the Ministry for Emergency Situations of the country, as well as measures and directions for improving the system of prevention and liquidation of emergency situations, Uzbekistan National News Agency (UzA) reported. In accordance with the decree published by the Uzbek media June 2, the Center of Hydrometeorological Service, the State Inspection for Control and Supervision over the Technical Condition and Safety of Large and Especially Important Water Management Facilities, the State Inspectorate for Small Vessels, and the Service of Urgent Reports of the Institute of Seismology of the Academy of Sciences of Uzbekistan have been transferred to the country's Ministry of Emergency Situations. (Trend)