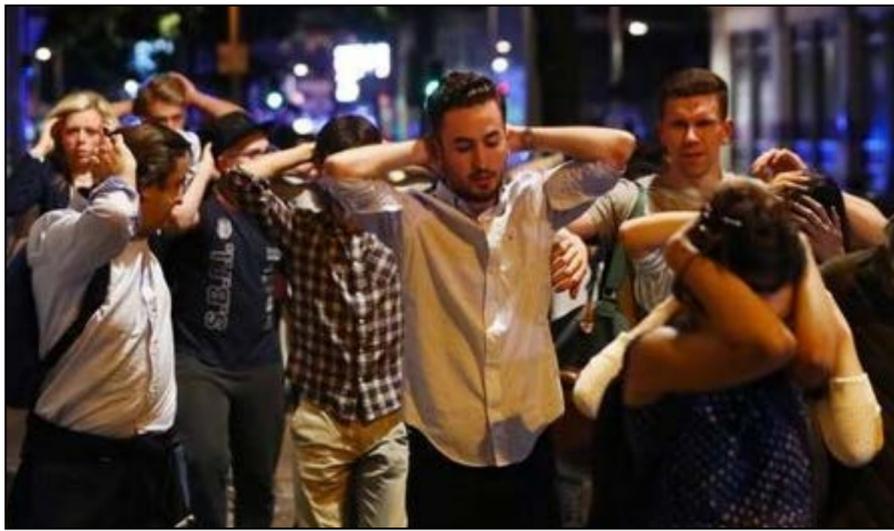


London Attackers Kill Seven, PM May Says 'Enough is Enough'

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May called on Sunday for a stronger response to Islamist extremism after three attackers drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge and stabbed others nearby, killing seven people and injuring 48. London's Metropolitan Police arrested 12 people in the Barkingside district of east London in connection with the attack and raids were continuing there, the force said. The attack occurred five days before a parliamentary election and was the third to hit Britain in less than three months. May said the vote would go ahead as planned on Thursday.

"It is time to say enough is



enough," the Conservative leader said in a televised statement outside her Downing Street office, where flags flew at half-mast.

"We cannot and must not pretend that things can continue as they are," May said, calling for a beefed-up counter-terrorism strategy that could include longer jail sentences for some offences and new cyberspace regulations.

A Canadian national was among those killed, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said in a statement. None of the dead were identified by name. French and Australian authorities said nationals from their countries were among those injured. (Reuters)

Erdogan Threatens new Operation in Northern Syria

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan vowed on Saturday to resume military actions against Syrian Kurdish fighters in case Turkey comes under attack by them.

"We will not discuss the matter with anyone but will make our own decision and take the matter into our own hands," the president said at a meeting with businessmen in Istanbul.

He spoke of a possible resumption of the so-called Operation Euphrates

Shield in northern Syria if the Democratic Union Party (PYD) and its military wing the People's Protection Units launch an attack on Turkey.

Ankara sees the two groups as the Syrian offshoots of the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) outlawed for its decades-old armed struggle for an autonomous region in Turkey's southeast, and the Turkish military ended Operation Euphrates Shield at the end of March that was launched in August last year.



Erdogan said that he had spoken of the matter with both Russian and U.S. officials. Earlier in the day, Turkish media reported that

the United States was resupplying PKK and PYD militants in northern Syria with military equipment, a move vehemently opposed by Turkey. (Xinhua)

Iran to Continue Supporting Syria in Anti-Terror Fight: Envoy

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Javad Torkabadi renewed his country's support for the Syrian government and nation against terrorist and extremist groups. "The Islamic Republic of Iran has an unchangeable stance in protecting Syria's independence and sovereignty against the plots hatched by the US and the Zionist regime," Torkabadi said on Sunday.

The Iranian ambassador reiterated that Iran will confront the aimed at

weakening the resistance front by all means.

In relevant remarks on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi announced the country's preparedness to dispatch monitoring forces to Syria based on the likely agreements in Astana talks. "Astana talks continue and negotiations are being held among the three countries (Iran, Turkey and Russia) on de-escalation zones," Qassemi told reporters in Tehran. (FNA)

Londoners Fight Back During Terror Attack

LONDON - As three assailants sought to strike fear at the heart of the British capital on Saturday night, some Londoners showed incredible courage and fought back.

Taxi driver Chris was on London Bridge as the attackers smashed their van into pedestrians around 10:00pm (2100 GMT) before sprinting, armed with knives, towards nearby bars packed with revellers. "I saw a young girl being stabbed in the chest," he told LBC radio, recalling how the three "went randomly along Borough High Street stab-

bing people". "I said to the guy in my cab I was going to try to hit him, I turned around and tried, but he side-stepped me," he added. The attack took place a few minutes after the end of the Champions League final between Real Madrid and Juventus and many fans were watching the football on television in some of the trendy area's bars. Gerard Wovels, 47, was heading home after watching the football at the Ship Pub in Borough when he saw a woman being stabbed 10 to 15 times. (AFP)

Trump Offers Help as London Tackles "Terrorist" Attacks

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday offered help to Britain after two attacks in London killed six and injured at least 20.

"Whatever the United States can do to help out in London and the U.K., we will be there - WE ARE WITH YOU. GOD BLESS!" Trump wrote on Twitter.

He also spoke with British Prime Minister Theresa May to offer condolences and offered Washington's "full support" in "investigating and bringing those responsible for these heinous acts to justice,"

according to a White House statement.

The country condemned the "cowardly attacks" targeting civilians and stood ready to offer any assistance authorities in Britain may request, the statement said.

Unidentified attackers drove a van into pedestrians on London Bridge Saturday night and stabbed people in the nearby Borough Market area. British authorities have classified the inci-



dents as terrorist attacks. Six people have been killed and three suspects shot dead by police, local police said early Sunday.

The London Ambulance Service said that at least 20 people were being treated across London following the incidents. (Xinhua)

India Test-Fires Surface-to-Air Missile

NEW DELHI - India on Sunday successfully test fired its first all weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM), India's state-run broadcaster All India Radio (AIR) said.

The missile was launched from a mobile launcher in the Integrated Test Range (ITR) off Odisha coast at Chandipur at around 12:39 p.m. local time.

The broadcaster reported that the test was carried out for validating various parameters of the sophisticated weapon system to further strengthen its air defence system. (Xinhua)

North Korea Says Rejects new Sanctions, to Continue Nuclear Program

SEOUL - North Korea "fully rejects" the latest U.N. sanctions against its citizens and entities as a "hostile act" and will continue its nuclear weapons development without a delay, its foreign ministry spokesman said on Sunday.

The U.N. Security Council on Friday expanded targeted sanctions against North Korea after its repeated missile tests, adopting the first such resolution agreed by the United States and Pyongyang's only major ally China since U.S. President Donald Trump took office.

The sanctions resolution "is a crafty hostile act with the purpose of putting a curb on the DPRK's buildup of nuclear forces, disarming it and causing economic suffocation to it," the foreign ministry spokesman said in a statement carried by its official KCNA news agency. (Reuters)

Southeast Asian Nations Step up Cooperation as IS Threat Mounts

SINGAPORE - Southeast Asian nations plan to use spy planes and drones to stem the movement of militants across their porous borders, defense officials said at the weekend, as concerns rise over the growing clout of Islamic State in the region.

Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines said they will launch joint air patrols this month at their shared boundaries in the Sulu Sea, in addition to existing maritime patrols. Authorities in the region have urged greater cooperation to counter the fallout from a raging battle with Islamic State-linked



militants in the southern Philippines, the biggest warning yet that the ultra-radical group is building a base in Southeast Asia.

"Our open borders are being exploited by terrorist groups to facilitate personnel and material," Le Luong Minh, Secretary-General of the Association

of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) told the Shangri-La Dialogue, an annual regional security forum in Singapore.

The region is home to 600 million people and includes Indonesia, which has the world's highest number of Muslims. (Reuters)

Situation in Syria Gets Better with Retreat of Terror Groups: Assad

DAMASCUS - Syria's President Bashar al-Assad said the situation in Syria is witnessing big improvement, largely due to the retreat of the terror-designated groups.

The situation on the ground has become much better than what it used to be before, from a military perspective, Assad said during an interview, whose content was published by state news agency SANA on Saturday. The president's remarks came as the Islamic State (IS) group is losing ground on several fronts, mainly in the Syrian desert in central Syria, the countryside of Aleppo province, and last but not least in the Raqqa province, the de facto capital of

IS. He also mentioned the retreat of the al-Qaida-linked Nusra Front.

Still, Assad said the military perspective is not enough, adding that terrorist ideology that is being spread in the region constitutes the biggest and most dangerous challenge. He said defeating the terror groups relies on halting their support by countries such as Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the Western ones like the United States, Britain and France. Earlier in the day, the Syrian army and allied fighters have captured 1,400 square km from the IS in the Syrian desert over the past 24 hours, according to SANA. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Calls for Diplomatic Efforts to Solve Nuclear Crisis on Korean Peninsula

SINGAPORE - The relevant parties at the 16th Shangri-La Dialogue, particularly China, here on Sunday urged the adoption of diplomatic means instead of military or economic punishment to finally solve the nuclear threat on the Korean Peninsula. The crux of the nuclear crisis is Washington and Pyongyang's mistrust to each other, pointed out He Lei, head of the Chinese delegation to the dialogue who also serves as vice president of the Academy of Military Science of the People's Liberation Army of China (PLA).

The United States should become more open-minded and exert more wisdom in deal-

ing with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), he suggested.

According to Koh Chin Yee, CEO of the Singapore-based Longus Institute for Development and Strategy, the two adversaries continuously increase their chips to intimidate each other before finally threading on each other's bottom lines.

At the invitation of the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS) that initiated the event, U.S. Secretary of Defense James Mattis delivered a speech Saturday, saying that Pyongyang constituted the most urgent and dangerous threat to the region. (Xinhua)

U.S. Exit from Paris Accord "Irresponsible": Iran

TEHRAN - Iran's Foreign Ministry said the United States has not acted responsibly by moving out of Paris Climate Agreement, Tehran Times daily reported on Sunday.

"The withdrawal of the United States from the Paris accord indicates the irresponsibility of this country's government vis-a-vis the international community," Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi was quoted as saying.

"Climate changes have caused big global challenges and combating the horrific consequences of them requires complete and sincere cooperation of all countries, particularly industrialized governments," said Qassemi. The Iranian spokesperson urged the international

community to compel the new U.S. administration to completely and precisely implement Washington's international commitments.

On Saturday, Iran's Vice President and Head of Environmental Protection Organization Masoumeh Ebtekar said that Paris climate accord is a global agreement and the U.S. withdrawal from the treaty does not inflict any harm on the accord.

Paris Climate Agreement should be regarded as a golden opportunity leading us toward convergence, Ebtekar was quoted as saying by official IRNA news agency.

Most of the world states are not satisfied with the U.S. president's quit decision and have criticized it, she said. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Security Sources: Dozen Daesh Terrorists Killed in Balochistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan security forces on Sunday said they had killed around a dozen Daesh militants in a three-day raid. Pakistan security sources: dozen Daesh terrorists killed in Balochistan. The operation took place in Mastung district of Balochistan and targeted the hideout cave of a group of Daesh key elements, a senior security official said.

"Some 12-13 Daesh commanders have been killed after intense gun-battles and the area was cleared late Saturday," said the un-named source.

Meanwhile, according to another security source, security forces also seized some suicide jackets and a cache of ammunition, weapons, explosives and detonators.

He added that the cave was a base used by Daesh to plan attacks across Pakistan. Security sources said that elimination of Daesh top leadership would serve a major blow to the terrorist group in Pakistan. The government of Pakistan officially denies organized presence of Daesh terrorist group in the country. (IRNA)

Turkmenistan: Anti-Corruption Body Created to Fight Crisis

ASHGABAT - With the economic crisis in Turkmenistan getting only deeper, President Gurbanguly Berdimukhamedov has created an anticorruption agency to combat what he thinks might be the main culprit. Berdimukhamedov announced the formation of the agency during a government meeting on June 1. He said the goal of the body would be "to improve the detection, prevention, disclosure and investigation of corruption-related offenses." For all the talk of disclosure, there has been little of that going on. While it was not spelled out, the timing of this move looks like a transparent response to the deepening malaise gripping the country. By all accounts,

evidence of trouble in Turkmenistan is mounting with every passing day. Prices for anything other than the most common fruit and vegetables are constantly on the rise. Shortages for many other everyday items, such as chicken and sugar, are a regular occurrence. When sought-after goods do appear in the markets, shoppers are at the mercy of traders empowered to haggle costs upwards.

In recent times, even government workers in the capital have started to see their salaries being held back.

The practice had already been in place for some time for energy sector laborers and civil servants in the provinces. (Agencies)

Joint Efforts to Fight Terrorism should be Stepped up: Putin

MOSCOW - Russian president Vladimir Putin expressed his condolences over attacks in London in a telegram to British prime minister Theresa May on Sunday, the Kremlin said in a statement. "The President of Russia expressed his confidence that the build-up of joint efforts to fight forces of terror all over the world should become the common answer on what happened," the Kremlin said. (Reuters)

German Right-Wingers Urge Switch of Climate Change Policy

BERLIN - A conservative group in Chancellor Angela Merkel's party is urging a change of approach to climate change, arguing that the melting of sea ice could carry more opportunities than problems. Lawmaker Philipp Lengsfeld wrote on Twitter Sunday that the Berlin Circle group wants "massive course corrections in climate and energy policy." Lengsfeld said its statement was originally published Tuesday - before President Donald Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate accord, which Merkel criticized. The statement doesn't mention the accord, but says the goal of limiting the global temperature rise to below 2 degrees Celsius isn't realistic. The Berlin Circle, which has criticized various Merkel policies, includes a clutch of lawmakers in her Christian Democrats but not the party's heaviest hitters. It's been fairly isolated so far. (AP)