

British PM Pledges Tough Action on Terrorism

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May announced get-tough proposals Tuesday night on tackling terrorism, saying she would change human rights laws if she needed to. May outlined her proposals at an election rally in Slough on what was the penultimate day of canvassing in the British general election campaign. With Britain still reeling from two attacks in London and one in Manchester, May seemed determined to show voters she will respond to the terror threat if she wins the election Thursday. May said she would look at making it easier for Britain to



deport foreign terror suspects. But controversially, she also outlined increased controls on extremists who the security services think may present a threat to public safety, but where there is not enough evidence to prosecute them. Following the London Bridge attack on Saturday, May said she aimed to get tough on terror with her "enough is enough" speech. In Slough Tuesday she said her plans would mean longer prison sentences for people convicted of terrorist offences, and making it easier for the authorities to deport foreign terror suspects to their own countries. (Xinhua)

SCO Ensures Security, Stability, Sustainable Growth: Russian Deputy FM

MOSCOW - The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has become an effective tool of ensuring security, stability and sustainable development in the modern system of interstate relations, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov said. "The key factor in the advance of the SCO is the readiness of the member states to build its activities on the principles of mutual trust, equality, dialogue, respect for interests of each other and for the diversity of civilizations and

cultures, or, in short, on what we call the 'Shanghai Spirit' in the organization," he said in a recent interview with Xinhua. The relevance of this model of cooperation is evidenced by a growing number of countries and international organizations that are striving to participate in the SCO activities, including in the status of an observer or a dialogue partner, he added. The SCO is a Eurasian political, economic and security organization founded in 2001 with



headquarters in Beijing. It currently includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as full members, six observers and six dialogue partners. India and

Pakistan are expected to become full members of the SCO at its forthcoming summit, which is to take place in Astana, Kazakhstan, on Thursday and Friday. (Xinhua)

Trump Continues to Push for Controversial Travel Ban after London Terror Attack

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump is ramping up calls for a controversial travel ban from a handful of countries where terrorism runs rampant after the terrorist attack in London, but he faces a tough legal battle in U.S. courts. Over the weekend, Islamist terrorists carried out an attack on a crowded shopping area in London, by using a van to plow through throngs of tourists and locals on London Bridge. Several men then jumped out of the van and

went on a rampage, stabbing people with knives. The incident, which left seven dead and four dozen injured, came just two weeks after a terrorist bomb killed nearly two dozen people at a concert in Manchester. The attacks come at a time when radical Islam is spreading through the West, Southeast Asia and elsewhere. In a series of posts on social media on Monday, which went on into the evening hours, Trump said "I am calling it what

"Save our Ocean" Exhibition Opens at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS - The world's Ocean takes center stage this month with new exhibitions now on display at United Nations Headquarters and across the five boroughs of New York City. The exhibitions were launched by the Office of the President of the UN General Assembly to coincide with the United Nations Ocean Conference, taking place on June 5-9 in New York, the office said Tuesday. Participants include the Co-Presidents of the Conference, Sweden and Fiji, the United Nations Division for Ocean Affairs and the Law of the

Sea, private sector partners, and Project Zero. The Ocean covers an astonishing 70 percent of the planet's surface. Its abundance, temperature, chemistry, currents and teeming variety of life drive global systems that make the Earth habitable for humanity. Peter Thomson, President of the General Assembly, highlighted the significance of the dilemma planet Earth faces: "In these challenging times, there are few phenomena of greater importance to the sustainability of our species on this planet. (Xinhua)

NATO Looks for External Enemy to Justify its Existence: Putin

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin has said that the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) has been constantly looking for an external enemy to justify its existence, the RIA Novosti news agency reported Wednesday. The Eastern Bloc does not exist any more, the Soviet Union neither, so why NATO is still there, Putin said in a recent interview with American director Oliver Stone. "I have an impression that in order to justify its existence, NATO needs an ex-



ternal enemy. Thus, there is a constant search for an enemy or some provocations," he said. The Russian president said that he has not lost hope for changes in Rus-

sian-U.S. relations. Earlier, at the plenary session of the "Business Dialogue between Russia and the United States" at the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum,

Putin said Russia is going to continue to engage in dialogue with the new U.S. administration, but political will and mutual effort are needed for any talks to succeed. (Xinhua)

Emirati Diplomat to AP: 'Nothing to Negotiate' with Qatar

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates - A top Emirati diplomat said Wednesday "there's nothing to negotiate" with Qatar over a growing diplomatic dispute about the energy-rich nation's alleged funding of terror groups, signaling Arab countries trying to isolate it won't back down. Speaking in a rare interview, Emirati Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash told The Associated Press that Qatar has "chosen to ride the tiger of extremism and terrorism" and now needed to pay the price. Gargash said Qatar "absolutely" should expel members of Hamas, stop its support of terror groups "with al-Qaida DNA" around the world and rein in the many media outlets it funds, chief among them the Doha-based satellite news network Al-Jazeera. (AP)

Germany Considers Pulling out Forces from Turkey Base to Jordan: Defense Minister

BERLIN - German Defense Minister Ursula von der Leyen on Wednesday suggested moving parts of German garrisons from Turkey to Jordan following a renewed spat with Ankara. Jordan has agreed to host the German troops at al-Azraq. "We should focus on this alternative," Von der Leyen said in an interview with local media Morgenmagazin. Von der Leyen's advice was given after German-Turkish talks broke down in Ankara on Monday when Turkish Foreign Minister



Mevlut Cavusoglu firmly refused to allow German parliamentarians to visit the Incirlik base in southeastern Turkey. Cavusoglu cited the reason as Germany granted asylum to some Turkish army officers sus-

pected of taking part in last year's coup against Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Germany has stationed around 250 military personnel at Incirlik air base. (Xinhua)

U.S. Treasury Secretary Says Pleased with Direction of U.S.-China Economic Relations

WASHINGTON - U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday that he was very pleased with the direction of U.S.-China economic relations as the two countries achieved initial results of a 100-day plan to boost economic cooperation. At a U.S.-China Business Council annual meeting, Mnuchin hailed in particular China's willingness to expand beef imports from the United States, which is part of a 100-day plan designed to enhance economic cooperation between the two countries. He

also highlighted progress in financial sector cooperation. During a meeting at the Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida in April, Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump agreed to establish a comprehensive economic dialogue and initiate a 100-day plan to boost bilateral economic cooperation. "I couldn't be more pleased with the direction of where we're heading," he said, noting good economic relations with China is "very important" for the United States. (Xinhua)

Terrorism Grave Threat to Global Security: Iran FM

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has condemned Wednesday's terror attacks in Tehran, warning about the rise of terrorism as a serious threat to global security. Zarif, who arrived in Turkey on Wednesday for an official visit, denounced the "indiscriminate" terror attacks and said terrorism was threatening the Middle East and the rest of the world. "Very grave conditions are prevailing in the region" in the terms of security, Zarif said at Ankara's Esenboga Airport. Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani also condemned the attacks as "cowardly" and said they meant to undermine Tehran's anti-terror fight.

"Iran... is an instrumental and effectual pillar of the fight against terrorism," he said. Earlier on Wednesday, gunmen stormed Iran's Parliament (Majlis) and the mausoleum of the late founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini in two coordinated attacks claimed by the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group. According to the emergency services chief, 12 people have been killed and over 40 others wounded in the twin assaults. After the attacks ended, the Interior Ministry issued a statement, elaborating on the terror incidents. According to the statement, the first terror group, comprised of two people, entered the mausoleum at around 10:30 a.m. local time (0500 GMT). The first terrorist blew up his explosives, but the second was killed during fire-fight with security forces. (Presstv)

BRICS Media Leaders Gather in Beijing for Practical Cooperation

BEIJING - Media leaders from BRICS countries discussed ways to carry out practical cooperation at a presidium meeting of the BRICS Media Forum in Beijing Wednesday. Cai Mingzhao, president of Xinhua News Agency and executive president of the BRICS Media Forum, announced at the meeting that Xinhua will invest 1 million U.S. dollars to set up a fund to boost media cooperation among BRICS countries. The fund will be used to facilitate the implementation of the Action Plan to Strengthen Cooperation Among BRICS Media, which was deliberated at the meeting. (Xinhua)

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Xi Stresses Clean Energy Development

BEIJING - China will actively develop clean energy and improve energy efficiency to push green development and lifestyles, President Xi Jinping said Wednesday. He made the remarks in a congratulatory letter to the Eighth Clean Energy Ministerial and the Second Mission Innovation Ministerial, which opened in Beijing Wednesday. Clean energy development is crucial to the improvement of energy structure, energy security and the promotion of "ecological civilization," Xi said in the letter. China highly values clean energy development and has taken a series of measures and achieved positive outcomes in this

area, the president said. The country will stick to the basic state policy of energy conservation and environmental protection, Xi vowed. He urged participants of the two meetings to share knowledge and experience to help bring the world onto a path of green, low-carbon, circular and sustainable development. The Chinese government has intensified efforts to fight pollution and use more clean energy. The country has pledged to cut its carbon emissions per unit of GDP by 60-65 percent from 2005 levels by 2030 and raise the share of non-fossil energy use in total consumption to about 20 percent. (Xinhua)

Pakistani PM to Participate in Forthcoming SCO Summit

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif will participate in the forthcoming 17th Meeting of Heads of State Council of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Astana, Kazakhstan, the Foreign Ministry said Wednesday. Pakistan will become a full member of SCO at the Astana summit, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Pakistan has been a SCO observer since 2005. On the sidelines of the SCO summit, Sharif will hold a number of bilateral meetings with other participating leaders, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement. "Pakistan fully subscribes to the charter of SCO and the 'Shanghai Spirit'. As an Observer, we have

been actively participating in the activities of the organization." It said Pakistan shares with SCO and its member states deep-rooted historical and cultural links, as well as strong economic and strategic complementarities. "Our interests converge across a wide range of areas. SCO will help us underscore our interest in regional peace, stability and development and our support for regional cooperation against terrorism and extremism," the statement said. SCO, established in 2001, is a regional political, economic and security organization that groups China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan as full members. (Xinhua)

Iranian FM in Turkey to Discuss 'Worrying' Developments

ANKARA, Turkey - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif arrived in Turkey on Wednesday, saying there was a need for close discussions with Turkish officials on "worrying" developments in the region. Zarif was scheduled to meet with President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu for talks on bilateral and regional issues, Turkish officials said. His visit is taking place on the same day Iran was hit by a pair of attacks - on its parliament and the shrine of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini - which killed at least 12 people and wounded dozens. An hours-long siege at the legislature ended with four attackers dead. The Islamic

State group claimed the attacks. It also comes as Saudi Arabia and other neighbors cut diplomatic ties with Qatar, alleging it funded terror groups and has developed a close relationship with Iran, a nation with which it shares its vast offshore natural gas field. "There are worrying developments for us that are taking place in the region," Hurriyet newspaper quoted Zarif as telling reporters as he arrived at his hotel in Ankara. "There is a need for a close exchange of views with Turkey concerning these developments." Asked to comment on Wednesday's attacks in Iran, Zarif said: "These attacks will strengthen the people's stance against terrorism." (AP)

Russia Strengthens Military Bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan

DUSHANBEH - Russia equips its military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan with the latest weapons to prevent the transfer of terrorist activity from Afghanistan to the Central Asia, RIA Novosti News Agency quoted Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu as saying. "Russian Defense Ministry is taking measures to prevent the transfer of terrorist activity from Afghanistan to the Central Asian region. We increase the combat readiness of Russian military bases in Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan and equip

them with modern weapons and military equipment for this purpose," Shoigu said at a meeting of Defense Ministers of the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in the city of Astana on June 7. According to Shoigu, Russia as well provides assistance to the armed forces of the Central Asian states and pays great attention to increasing their combat capabilities. He went on to add that Russia regularly holds joint military drills with the Central Asian countries. (Trend)