

## Chinese Defense Minister Meets Turkish Air Forces Commander

BEIJING - Chinese State Councilor and Defense Minister Wei Fenghe Tuesday met with visiting Turkish Air Forces Commander Hasan Kucukakyuz.

Wei noted steady development of the China-Turkey strategic cooperative relationship and hailed smooth development of military ties as well as air forces exchanges and cooperation between the two countries.

He stated China's willingness to work with Turkey to firmly implement the consensus reached by the two countries' leaders, firmly support each other on issues related to national security, strengthen exchange of experiences in various fields, deepen and expand prag-



matic cooperation, and advance military-to-military cooperative relationship. Hasan expressed hope that the two sides will strengthen exchanges and cooperation in various fields to lift military ties to a new level. (Xinhua)

### India's Population to Surpass China's in 6yrs, Nearly 10 Billion Total on Earth by 2050 - UN

NEW DELHI - The global population will add 2 billion in the next three decades, closing in on the 10-billion milestone by 2050, the UN said. India, projected to overtake China, will lead the charge.

A newly released report by the Population Division of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) titled 'The World Population Prospects 2019: Highlights' estimates that a mind-boggling 9.7 billion people will inhabit the Earth by

2050, an increase of two billion from now. Nine countries are projected to be responsible for over the half of that surge. Leading the way is India, which is projected to add 273 million to its already massive 1.37 billion population and overtake China, whose population is expected to shrink by 31.4 million between 2019 and 2050. China's population will continue to dwindle and is set to reach 1.1 billion by 2100, while India is expected to ... (More on P4)... (16)

WASHINGTON - The U.S. is sending 1,000 more troops to the Middle East as tensions in the Persian Gulf mounted Tuesday over Iran's announcement it will not comply with the international agreement that keeps it from making nuclear weapons. At the same time, Iran insisted it was not seeking war.

Iran's announcement Monday that it could soon start enriching uranium to just a step away from weapons-grade levels challenged Presi-

### US Sending Troops to Mideast Amid Gulf Tensions Over Iran

dent Donald Trump's assurances to allies that the U.S. withdrawal from the deal last year made the world a safer place.

The Pentagon responded by ordering 1,000 more troops to the Middle East, including security forces for additional surveillance and intelligence-gathering. The escalation of American military might was aimed at deterring Iran and calming allies worried about the safety of strategic shipping lanes. Iran's president, Has-



san Rouhani, insisted Tuesday that while "we do not wage war with any nation," Iranians will withstand mounting U.S. pressure and emerge victorious. After Trump withdrew from the deal signed ... (More on P4)... (14)

## Neighbor News

### Senior EU Official: Trump Not in Control of Iran Policy, Should Fire Bolton

TEHRAN - A top EU diplomat says US President Donald Trump does not seem to be in control of his own administration's policy towards Iran and that he needs to fire his National Security Advisor John Bolton, an outspoken hawk who directs the White House's Iran policy.

In an interview with Russia's RT on Monday, Nathalie Tocci, a special adviser to European Union foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, said Trump has "actually been led into a very different direction" than the one he might have taken without Bolton's sway.

"Unfortunately at the moment it seems to

me that the US's Iran policy has a very clear author and that author is not the president of the United States" the EU official said. She dismissed Trump's claims that he was not seeking regime change in Iran, saying Bolton has long been pursuing this policy.

Bolton's position on Iran dates back "way further" than Trump, to "the [ex-president George] Bush administration and even earlier," said the EU diplomat.

"Perhaps [Trump] should try and change his national security adviser that very clearly has a very different position on this one," she said. (Press TV)

### Pakistan's Population to Hit 403 Million by 2050: UN

LAHORE - Pakistan's population is expected to climb to 403 million by 2050, a United Nations (UN) report released Monday said.

The earth's population is expected to rise to 9.7 billion in 2050 from 7.7 billion today, according to the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs' "World Population Prospects" report.

The study paints a picture of a future in which a handful of countries see their populaces surge as life expectancy lengthens while the global growth rate slows amid declining fertility rates.

By 2050, more than half of the world's popu-

lation growth will be concentrated in just nine countries: India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Indonesia, Egypt and the United States. "The populations of both Pakistan and Nigeria more than doubled in size between 1990 and 2019, with Pakistan moving up in rank from the 8th to the 5th position and Nigeria from the 10th to the 7th position," said the report.

Meanwhile the world's most populous country China will see its population drop by 2.2 percent, or around 31.4 million, between 2019 and 2050. (Agencies)

### Kim Jong Un Was Quick-Tempered Teen with Limited Academic Abilities, Kicked and Spat on His Classmates, Book Reveals



PYONGYANG - North Korean leader Kim Jong Un was a spoiled quick-tempered child with limited academic abilities who lashed out at

his Swiss school classmates for speaking German, a new biography book claims. The newly released biography, "The Great Suc-

cessor: The Secret Rise and Rule of Kim Jong Un" by the Washington Post's Anna Fifield, claims the reclusive childhood and teenage years of Kim may have paved the way for his tyrannical rule of the nuclear-armed hermit kingdom.

Kim reportedly spent years in a luxury compound in the capital Pyongyang, carefully coddled from the hardships of everyday North Koreans, with his father ensuring all his wishes and wants were ful-

filled, including the latest Super Mario video games, pinball machines and other entertainment devices, the Telegraph reported.

"The boy grew up thinking he was special," the author of the book wrote. Kenji Fujimoto, a Japanese chef who worked for years for the Kim family, said that then six-year-old Kim once looked down on him and refused to shake his hand as if saying "You abhorrent Japanese." ... (More on P4)... (15)

### Airbus Attempts to Sell the World on Pilotless Planes - Or Would You Rather Fly Boeing?

Aircraft manufacturer Airbus says "the technology for autonomous flying" is already here, and the only obstacles to progress are regulators - and "the traveling public," understandably wary of pilotless planes.

Ever since two Boeing 737 MAX 8 aircraft went down within six months of each other due to a glitch in the plane's computerized flight control system, killing everyone on-board, airline passengers have had good

reason to be leery of placing their lives in the hands of computers. News that Boeing was aware of the problems with its MCAS system and packaged the software "fix" as an add-on to extract more money from its customers only adds to fliers' distrust of the company. But what about Airbus, its main competitor? Airbus chief salesman Christian Scherer acknowledged in an interview with AP ... (More on P4)... (17)

### World Bank Grants 500-Mln-USD Loan to Uzbekistan for Economic Reforms

TASHKENT - The World Bank has approved a 500-million-U.S.-dollar loan to support Uzbekistan's ongoing economic transformation and market reforms, aimed at increasing jobs and the well-being of its people, the bank's office in Uzbekistan said Monday.

Uzbekistan will receive the loan through a Development Policy Operation (DPO), which will help sustain Uzbekistan's economic reforms to reorient the economy towards greater private sector-led growth and job creation.

"Uzbekistan's wide-ranging reforms continue, bolstered by significant support from the country's citizens and the international community," Hideki Mori, World Bank ... (More on P4)... (18)

### Hong Kong Protesters Slam Leader's Apology, Demand She Quit

HONG KONG - Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmakers and activists rejected a new apology Tuesday by the city's leader over a highly unpopular extradition bill, demanding that she quit and that the legislation be scrapped completely.

Lam's plea for "another chance" drew a chorus of criticism, though members of pro-Beijing political parties and her Cabinet, the Executive Council, expressed their support. Some activists said if the government does not meet those and other demands by a 5 p.m. Thursday deadline, they plan a mass "resistance movement." That would follow a peaceful but rousing march Sunday ... (More on P4)... (19)

### French Government Unveils 'Tough' Reform of Jobless Benefits

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron's government has unveiled plans to make it more difficult for the unemployed to claim benefits.

Labor minister Muriel Penicaud said Tuesday that the reform was "tough yet important." Unions have denounced the plans as unfair and damaging to the country's social security system.

The planned changes extend the period people will have had to work to be entitled to unemployment benefits and reduces



the amount wealthier workers can receive after six months out of work.

The government expects the reform to save 3.4 billion euros (\$3.8 billion) over three years and hopes it will

reduce unemployment. Unemployment in France fell to 8.7% in the first quarter of the year, its lowest in a decade - yet it remains among the highest in Europe. (Fox News)

### Germany's Merkel Shakes While Meeting Ukrainian President

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel was spotted visibly unsteady and shaking when she met Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky. The 64-year-old politician later said she recovered from the sickly condition after drinking water.

Merkel felt unwell while she greeted Zelensky outside the chancellery amid hot weather in Berlin. The two leaders were listening to a band, playing national anthems of the two countries, when Mer-

kel started shaking and swaying around a little, footage from the scene shows.

Following the anthems, Merkel managed to get herself together and was seen walking quickly alongside Zelensky into the chancellery. The German leader later told reporters that she has fully recovered after drinking several glasses of water. "Since then I have drunk at least three glasses of water - I obviously needed that and so I'm doing very well now," she said. (RT)

### Greece Calls on EU to Condemn 'Illegal' Drilling Off Cyprus

ATHENS - Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras on Tuesday demanded that the European Union issue a reprimand to Turkey for its "illegal" gas exploration in Cyprus, after Ankara defied calls for it to cease drilling in the region.

The discovery of huge gas reserves in the Mediterranean has fuelled a race to tap underwater resources and triggered an escalating dispute between Turkey and Cyprus, an EU member state that also plans to ramp up its exploratory activities in the area.

Tsipras accused Ankara of "violating international law" in a call with European Council President Donald Tusk, according to a statement from his office.

He urged the Council, which is meeting in Brussels on June 20 and 21, to "strongly condemn the illegal actions of Turkey in Cyprus' exclusive economic zone".

The European Union in May urged Turkey to show restraint and respect the sovereign rights of Cyprus over the energy dispute, while the US also asked Ankara to reconsider.

Seven southern European Union countries on Friday issued a joint declaration, expressing "serious concern over actual or potential drilling activities within Cyprus' exclusive economic zone".

They urged the EU to keep an eye on the issue "and, in case Turkey does not cease its illegal activities, to consider appropriate measures in full solidarity with Cyprus". (AFP)

### Uzbekistan, Orano to Set Up Uranium Joint Venture

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan will set up a joint venture with France's Orano to explore and possibly develop uranium deposits in the Central Asian nation's Navoi province, according to a draft Uzbek government decree published on Tuesday.

A unit of Orano, previously known as Areva,

will have a 51 percent stake in the joint venture that will be established with a capital of \$34.5 million, the document showed.

The draft decree provided no information on the potential size of uranium deposits that the venture, due to be set up by the end of next month, will explore. (Reuters)

### Iran Will Not Go to War with Any Nation: Rouhani

TEHRAN - President Hassan Rouhani reaffirms that Iran does not seek war with any state, but stresses that the Iranian nation will be the ultimate winner of any warfare against the Islamic Republic.

"We will not wage war with any nation, those facing us are a group of politicians with little experience," said Rouhani, addressing an inauguration ceremony at the Imam Khomeini International Airport (IKIA) in southern Tehran on Tuesday.

Rouhani's comment came a day after acting US Defense Secretary Patrick Shanahan announced the deployment of about 1,000 more troops to the Middle East amid escalating tensions with Iran.

Tehran has time and again said that it does not seek military confrontations with the United States, yet stands ready to defend its interests in the region. Rouhani further

slammed attempts by enemies to pile up economic pressure against the Iranian nation to create despair among the people.

He said the ill-wishers have launched a "war of hope and wills" against the Iranian nation, adding that the enemies are attempting to create despair among the Iranian nation through malicious schemes.

Iranians are, however, determined to defeat such plots and keep their hope alive, said the president, stressing that the Iranian people "will be the ultimate winner of this war and pressure." Iran has been witnessing new economic and social progress despite all the enemy pressure, he said. The Iranian president said that "despite all of the Americans' attempts in the region and their intention to cut off our ties with the entire world and their desire to isolate Iran, they have been unsuccessful." (Press TV)