

Common Bonds Aside, Trump and Merkel Show Little Rapport

WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump and German Chancellor Angela Merkel tried to sidestep their differences, but some awkward moments punctuated their first public appearance. During a photo op in the Oval Office on Friday, the two did not shake hands before reporters. Later, during a joint news conference, Trump pushed back against the notion in Europe that his "America First" agenda means he's an isolationist, calling such a suggestion "another example of, as you say, fake news." And he referred to the United States as "a very powerful company,"



before quickly correcting that to "country." When a German reporter asked Trump if he regrets any of his commentary on Twitter, Trump said, "Very seldom." Merkel maintained her composure even when Trump repeated his contention that former President Barack Obama may have tapped his phones in Trump Tower. He sought to turn the explosive charge into a light joke when asked about concerns raised by the British government that the White House is now citing a debunked claim that U.K. spies spied on Trump. ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Former U.S. Defense Chief Urges Int'l Efforts to Improve Nuclear Security

BEIJING - Former U.S. Secretary of Defense William Perry said here Saturday that concerted efforts of the international society are in dire need to save the world from an escalating possibility of "nuclear extinction." Perry made the remarks in an interview with Xinhua after attending a seminar on the newly-released Chinese edition of his book "My Journey at the Nuclear Brink."

noting the Chicago-based Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists in January moved the symbolic "doomsday clock" to its closest time to midnight in 64 years. "People all over the world, regardless of their nationality, should be interested in working to give future generations a chance to live their lives without fear of nuclear extinction," he said. Perry said he had been awakened from a sound sleep by a telephone call at 3:00 a.m. some day in 1979. It...*(More on P4)...(26)*

G20 Financial Leaders Fail to Reaffirm Free Trade Commitment

BADEN BADEN, Germany - The world's financial leaders failed to reach a compromise deal to endorse free trade on Saturday, backtracking on past commitments to keep trade open and reject protectionism, the communique of G20 finance ministers and central bankers showed. Making only a token reference for the need to strengthen the contribution of trade to the economy, finance ministers and central bank chiefs of the world's 20

economies broke with a decade-old tradition of rejecting protectionism and endorsing open trade. In the new U.S. administration's biggest clash yet with the international community, G20 finance chiefs also walked back on a pledge to support climate change finance, an anticipated outcome after U.S. President Donald Trump called climate change a "hoax". Speaking on the sidelines of the meeting, delegates said that the U.S. was



holding out on key issues, unwilling to compromise and essentially torpedoing a deal as it requires all members to sign up. Trump has already pulled out of a key trade agreement and proposed a new tax on imports arguing that certain trade relationships need to be reworked to make them fairer for U.S. workers. *(Reuters)*

Trump's Visa Ban Fight Could Go all the Way to the Supreme Court

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump is at odds with the nation's courts over a recent immigration order, and he may fight all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court, experts said. At issue is an executive order Trump issued in January, when he temporarily banned a small group of citizens from Muslim-majority nations from entering the United States, on fears that terrorists could sneak in among them. The so-called visa ban grabbed headlines worldwide, amid images of protesters

at airports. Since then, Trump has amended the ban, but a federal judge in Hawaii on Wednesday stopped it, sparking a fight with the White House that may end up at the Supreme Court. White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Thursday that the administration plans to appeal the federal judge's ruling, explaining that the danger from terrorism is real. There are two sides to the issue. The U.S. Constitution forbids discrimination...*(More on P4)...(27)*

China, U.S. in Talks on Meeting between Presidents

BEIJING - China and the United States are now in close communication on arrangements for a meeting between the two presidents and exchanges at other levels, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said during his talks with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson Saturday. "We attach great importance to your visit," Wang told Tillerson at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing. It is Tillerson's first visit to China since he assumed office last month. "We have had in-depth

discussions on a meeting between the two presidents and begun preparations," Wang told reporters after their talks. He said that the two sides agreed to keep close communication to ensure the success of the meeting between the two presidents as well as exchanges at other levels. China-U.S. ties are now developing positively and steadily, Wang said, calling for implementation of the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump.



Wang said China is willing to communicate and cooperate more with the U.S. side, enhance trust and handle differences properly, in a bid to promote a healthy and stable development of bilateral ties and benefit the people of both countries and the world at large. *(Xinhua)*

German FM: Turkey 'Further Away than Ever' from Joining EU

BERLIN - Germany's foreign minister says Turkey's chances of joining the European Union are dwindling, but the country might one day hope for a privileged partnership with the bloc. Sigmar Gabriel told German weekly Der Spiegel in an interview published Saturday that "Turkey is further away than ever before from EU membership." Gabriel, whose center-left Social Democrats have tended to back Turkish membership in the EU, says he was always skeptical of the idea.



He says upcoming negotiations about the EU's future relationship with Britain might provide a blueprint for Turkey "in the long term." Relations between Berlin and Ankara have soured recently over a Ger-

man Parliament resolution labeling the 20th century killing of Armenians as "genocide," Turkey's crackdown on the opposition and civil society and appearances by Turkish officials in Germany. *(AP)*

White House Apologizes to British Government over Spying Claims: Report

WASHINGTON - The White House has apologized to the British government after alleging that former U.S. President Barack Obama used a British intelligence agency to spy on President Donald Trump while he was a candidate last year, U.S. media reported Friday. CNN reported that U.S. national security adviser H.R. McMaster spoke with his British counterpart Mark Lyall Grant on Thursday about White House press secretary Sean Spicer's comment about a Fox News report that said British intelligence helped wiretap Trump Tower during the 2016 campaign. CNN quoted a White House official as saying that the conversation was "cordial" and McMaster described Spicer's comment as "unintentional." McMaster also told his counterpart that "their...*(More on P4)...(28)*

NATO Chief Urges Denmark to Spend More on Defense

COPENHAGEN - Visiting NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg on Friday urged Denmark to boost its expenditure on defense and security at a time of more complex security scenario. Addressing a joint press briefing after meeting with Danish Prime Minister Lars Loekke Rasmussen, Stoltenberg said it is not enough to increase the quality of defense only. "If you reduce defense spending when the tension goes down, you must also increase it when the tension goes up," Stoltenberg told the press. "It is not a choice between quality and quantity. We need more of both," he added. Rasmussen said there is a need to pour more money into defense and security, noting that it is his government's ambition to put more money when parliament this autumn will negotiate a new defense agreement. He however pointed out that Denmark will not be able to spend 2 percent of its gross domestic product (GDP) on defense as expected by the NATO. In 2014, 28 NATO countries agreed to eventually use 2 percent of GDP on defense. Denmark currently spends 1.14 percent of its GDP on defense, according to Danish news agency Ritzau. "Even if we had the money, the Danish defense will not be able to absorb so much money in a meaningful way," the prime minister said. *(Xinhua)*

UNHCR Opens two new Camps as Mosul Displacement Continues

UNITED NATIONS - As displacement from Western Mosul in north Iraq continues unabated, the UN refugee agency (UNHCR) is opening two new camps and asking donors for additional funding to help protect and shelter those forced to flee, UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters here Friday. Around 255,000 people have been displaced from Mosul and surrounding areas since October, Dujarric said at a daily news briefing here. "Last week saw the highest level of displacement yet, with 32,000 displaced between March 12 and 15." UNHCR needs 212...*(More on P4)...(29)*

French President Reaffirms Determination to Fight Terrorism

PARIS - French President Francois Hollande reaffirmed on Saturday the state's determination to "fight terrorism, defend the security of our compatriots and to ensure the protection of the territory" after a man was shot dead after trying to seize a weapon from a soldier at Orly airport, his office said. In a communique released by the presidency, Hollande welcomed the courage and efficiency shown by the police and the military in the face of the attacks committed by a dangerous individual. The anti-terrorist section of the Paris Public Prosecution has started an investigation to shed full light on the moti-

vations and circumstances of these acts and on possible complicities, added the communique. The level of vigilance will be maintained at its highest and Sentinelle Operation has demonstrated once again its usefulness in addition to the police and gendarmerie forces, it said. At about 8:30 a.m. local time (0730 GMT), the man was trying to seize weapon from a soldier of Sentinelle operation at Orly south terminal, but he didn't succeed and was neutralized. It is believed that at about 6:55 a.m. (0555 GMT) Saturday morning, the man had shot at three police...*(More on P4)...(30)*

Nieghbor News

Chinese Landmark Concept Put into UN Security Council Resolution for 1st Time

UNITED NATIONS - The Chinese concept of building "a human community with shared destiny" was on Friday incorporated into a UN Security Council resolution for the first time, mirroring the global recognition of China's great contributions to the global governance, diplomats told Xinhua here. Also included in the newly adopted council resolution was China's Belt and Road Initiative, which aims to build a trade and infrastructure network connecting Asia with Europe and Africa along the ancient trade routes, they said. In a unanimously adopted resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) for one year, the 15-nation UN body urged to promote security and stability in Afghanistan and the region "to create

a community of shared future for mankind." Meanwhile, the latest council resolution also urged further international efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and implement the Belt and Road Initiative. The Security Council stressed "the crucial importance of advancing regional cooperation in the spirit of win-win cooperation as an effective means to promote security, stability and economic and social development in Afghanistan and the region to create a community of shared future for mankind," the resolution said. Since China first proposed the concept in late 2012, it has gone on to shape China's approach to global governance, giving rise to proposals and measures to support growth for all. *(Xinhua)*

Iran Suggests it is Unwilling to Honour Nuclear Deal

THERAN - Iran has challenged the need for it to ship sensitive material abroad if its stock exceeds a limit set by its nuclear deal with major powers. The challenge raises the prospect of a confrontation with the new US administration of President Donald Trump because diplomats say Iran is only months away from reaching that cap. The 2015 deal restricts Iran's atomic activities in exchange for the lifting of sanctions against Tehran. One restriction is on its stock of heavy water, a moderator used in a type of reactor that can produce plutonium, like an unfinished one at Arak that had its core removed

under the accord. Iran has already exceeded the 130-tonne limit on its heavy water stock twice, including under the Obama administration. The latest standoff with Washington over the issue was only defused in December when Iran shipped the excess amount to Oman, who has good relations with Iran, where the heavy water is being stored until a buyer can be found. In a letter to the UN nuclear watchdog circulated to member states on Thursday and posted on the agency's website, however, Iran argued that the deal does not require it to ship excess heavy water out of the country. *(Agencies)*

UN Adopts Pakistan-Sponsored Resolution for Curbing Drug Trafficking

ISLAMABAD - The United Nations (UN) has unanimously adopted a Pakistan-sponsored resolution calling for curbing drug trafficking and related crimes. The resolution, co-sponsored by several countries, was adopted on the occasion of sixtieth anniversary session of UN

Commission on Narcotic Drugs. It was based on the theme of "Strengthening international cooperation to assist the states most affected by the illicit transit of drugs, especially developing countries, based on the principle of common and shared responsibility". *(Monitoring Desk)*

Uzbekistan, EBRD to Work out Co-Op Strategy by Year-End

TASHKENT -Uzbekistan and the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD) will by late 2017 develop a strategy of cooperation for the next four years, EBRD President Suma Chakrabarti told a press conference in Uzbekistan. A memorandum of understanding was signed between the EBRD and the Uzbek government, according to him.

The EBRD president said that during the meeting with Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the sides discussed priority areas of cooperation. Those include projects for support of small business, support of reforms in the banking system, transportation, communications and infrastructure, as well as trade facilitation, said Suma Chakrabarti. *(Trend)*

Relations with Pakistan Deepening: Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's President, Emomali Rahmon, expressed his satisfaction with the strengthening and expansion of the multilateral ties with Pakistan since the establishment of diplomatic relations. In a meeting with Federal Minister for Water and Power Khawaja Asif, the Tajik leader stressed that the relations between the two countries have grown rapidly in the field of energy and se-

curity. Both sides highly appreciated the results of Pak-Tajik cooperation in the field of security and defense to combat challenges and threats in the region as well as the fight against terrorism and extremism. Both the leaders discussed the issues of cooperation in the areas of mutual importance, including energy, oil and gas, use of transport and transit opportunities. The...*(More on P4)...(31)*