

B20 Summit 2017 Kicks Off in Berlin

BERLIN - B20 Summit 2017 kicked off here on Tuesday, bringing together business representatives from 19 countries plus the European Union (EU). German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schauble gave the opening remarks to the two-day event, which is being held under the motto "Resilience, Responsibility, Responsiveness - Towards a Future-oriented, Sustainable World Economy."

In his speech, Schauble said nationalism and protectionism are never the right answer to global economic growth. He was echoed by his colleague Brigitte Zypries, German Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, who said "nothing good comes out from protectionism" in her remarks. Zypries called on Group of 20 (G20) to bring about inclusive



digitalization and digital transformation, saying digitalization will shape globalization and safeguard the free trade. Trade and Digitalization are among the central topics of B20 Task Forces and Cross-Thematic Groups. Besides, world business leaders will focus on topics such as Energy, Climate and Resource Efficiency, Financing, Growth and Infrastructure, Employment and Education, Small and Medium Enterprises, and Responsible Business Conduct and Anti-Corruption during the discussions. B20 will meet and officially hand over their recommendations to German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday. Chairman of B20 Jurgen Herxueus thought it's vital for G20 to hear business voices, saying that G20 need the expertise and advices of B20. (Xinhua)

Turkey's Ruling AKP to Re-Elect Erdogan as Head

ANKARA - Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) announced Monday to re-elect President Recep Tayyip Erdogan chairman after a break of some three years, state-run Anadolu Agency reported. A ceremony will be held by the party on Tuesday to welcome its founder, President Erdogan, and renew membership for him, the Deputy Chairman Yasin Aktay told reporters after the AKP's Central Decision and Executive Board meeting. Erdogan will first make

his request to register with the AKP and then address the ceremony, which will include all party officials, AKP lawmakers and other related officials.

The President will be re-elected as party chairman at an "extraordinary" congress on May 21, according to Aktay. Erdogan had chaired the AKP for 13 years from 2001 but had to step aside when he was elected president in August 2014, as the constitution prevented president from ...*(More on P4)...(18)*

Russian, U.S. Top Diplomats Plan to Meet in Alaska Next Week

MOSCOW - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov and U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson plan to meet in the United States next week, the Russian Foreign Ministry said in a statement on Monday. Lavrov and Tillerson discussed over phone the schedule of upcoming talks on the sidelines of an Arctic Council ministerial meeting in Alaska on May 10 and 11, the statement read.

The meeting will be the second within one month between the two diplo-

mats, after Russia and the United States failed to mend their ties as many had expected under Donald Trump's presidency.

The Russian statement did not disclose what issues Lavrov and Tillerson would mainly discuss in Alaska.

During Monday's phone conversation, Lavrov and Tillerson exchanged views on an international meeting on Syria to be



held in the Kazakh capital of Astana on Wednesday.

The Syrian civil war, the Ukrainian crisis and the

expansion of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization have been major obstacles distancing Moscow and Washington. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Central Asian States and Japan to Boost Cooperation in Transport

ASTANA - Foreign ministers and ambassadors of Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Japan met in Ashgabat, capital city of Turkmenistan, on Monday and adopted a road map for cooperation in the field of transport and logistics. "This format of multilateral cooperation has demonstrated its high efficiency and usefulness during 13-year period of its existence. It has become broader and now covers the main directions of cooperation between the Central Asian

region and Japan," local report from Ashgabat quoted Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov as saying. The meeting between the representatives of the Central Asian region and Japan focused on further deepening of regional practical cooperation as well as regional security and sustainable development. Meeting between Central Asia and Japan were initiated by the Japanese government in 2004 to promote dialogue between Japan and the Central Asian countries. (Xinhua)

Iran, Syria Vow to Boost Military Cooperation Against "Threats"

TEHRAN - The Iranian and Syrian army commanders on Monday vowed to boost cooperation in the face of threats, Press TV reported.

Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri and his Syrian counterpart General Ali Abdullah Ayoub denounced the recent Israeli and U.S. strikes on Syria. Baqeri said that the Syrian army and nation have put up brave resistance in the face of crimes by the terrorists, regional aggression and foreign intervention. "By maintaining their unity and national solidarity as well as holding inter-Syria talks, the Syrian people must be prudently vigilant about foreign plots aimed at creating rifts in this country," he was quoted as saying.

Ayoub said that Iran's military advisory support for his country has played a decisive role in the continuation of the Syrians' resistance and their major victories against terrorists and Israel.

Heading a high-ranking military delegation, Ayoub arrived in Tehran on Monday to hold talks with Iranian officials aimed at strengthening relations between the two countries' armed forces and improving coordination on the latest political and military situation in Syria.

The United States fired 59 Tomahawk missiles at the Shayrat Air Base in central Syria on April 7, saying the strike was intended to deter the Syrian government from using chemical weapons. (Xinhua)

Pakistan, China Finalising Long-Term Plan for CPEC

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and China are working towards early finalisation of a Long-Term Plan (LTP) for the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Chinese diplomat confirmed on Monday.

There are expectations that it could be finalised during the Belt and Road summit being hosted by China on May 14 and 15. Pakistan is participating in the summit.

The LTP, which covers the projects to be undertaken till 2030, has been behind the timeline set for its adoption. Currently, short-to-medium term projects are being

pursued under CPEC, which relate to energy, infrastructure and connectivity. The LTP, officials say, defines the overall direction, ideas and goals of cooperation from present till 2030.

Earlier, Political and Press Counsellor at the Chinese Embassy Jian Han, speaking at a roundtable conference on 'OBOR and CPEC from the Prism of China-Pakistan Bilateral Relations' organised by the Strategic Vision Institute (SVI), had said that the LTP "would set the focus for CPEC construction in future". (Monitoring Desk)

Uzbekistan Says Uncovering Militants Daily Among Returning Migrants

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's police routinely uncover militant Islamists among Uzbek migrants returning home and plan to expose those who remain abroad via social networks, Interior Minister Abdusalom Azizov said on Tuesday. An Uzbek asylum seeker has been charged by a Swedish court over a deadly truck attack in Stockholm last month that put Uzbekistan, a largely Muslim Central Asian nation, in the global spotlight. Five people were killed in the attack. "I will not hide the fact that almost every day we uncover people ... who have returned (from abroad) and start spreading the Wahhabi ideology here," Azizov told

reporters, referring to the ultra-conservative strand of Islam that inspires some militant groups and is banned in Uzbekistan. "There are many attempts (to spread it in Uzbekistan), but so far we are stopping them all," he added.

Azizov said most Islamist suspects returning to Uzbekistan had been radicalized while living abroad, "in Russia, Turkey, other countries". Uzbekistan, which battled armed Islamists on its own soil in the 1990s, said last month it had tipped off a western nation before the Stockholm attack that Rakhmat Akilov, the suspected perpetrator, was an Islamic State recruit. (Reuters)

US Issues Europe Travel Alert, Citing Continued Terrorism Threat

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department on Monday issued a travel alert to U.S. citizens concerning continued threat of terrorist attacks throughout Europe.

In the alert, the State Department cited recent incidents in France, Russia, Sweden and the United Kingdom to demonstrate that extremist groups, including Islamic State, Al-Qaeda and their affiliates, "have the ability to plan and execute terrorist attacks in Europe."

"Extremists continue to focus on tourist locations, transportation hubs, mar-

kets/shopping malls, and local government facilities as viable targets," said the alert, adding that other public venues, such as hotels, restaurants and high-profile events could also be the targets.

"Terrorists persist in employing a variety of tactics, including firearms, explosives, using vehicles as ramming devices, and sharp-edged weapons that are difficult to detect prior to an attack," said the alert, which is valid till Sep. 1, 2017.

State Department's last travel alert for Europe ...*(More on P4)...(19)*

Thousands of People March for Labor Day, Against Trump in Los Angeles

LOS ANGELES - Thousands of people gathered in downtown Los Angeles Monday for the May Day march and rally against President Donald Trump's rhetoric on immigration and deportation policies.

The protest dubbed "Resist Los Angeles" was organized by a coalition of labor, immigrant-rights and faith-based groups. Huge crowd moved through the streets of downtown Los Angeles, holding banners and signs with slogans such as "Immigrant rights are worker's rights," "If Trump builds a wall, we'll tear it down," "Don't trust

those who seek to divide you, workers of the world unite" and so on.

"The reason I come here is to support the immigrants, because I am an immigrant also, and to stop this hate message this administration with Trump is sending to the community," said Laura Padilla, a middle-aged Mexican-American woman. "I protest that man, I protest his character and I protest his abuse of Capitalism," said Lori Hinkston, a white woman holding an anti-Trump placard. "We want to safeguard our rights to work. Although today is a work-



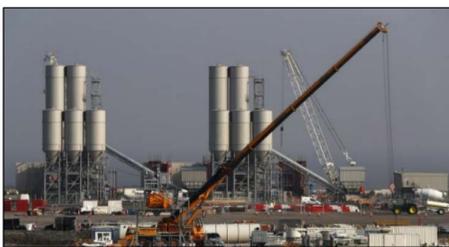
ing day, but we come here to gather for our rights. My boss agreed to give me a day off for the event," said Rangel Rafael, an immigrant working in a local sewage company. Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti addressed the crowd from a large stage that was erect-

ed in front of City Hall. Grandson of an immigrant from Mexico, he vowed to push back on President Trump. People cheered as he promised that Los Angeles Police Department will never be a deportation force as long as he is the major of the city. (Xinhua)

Brexit Threatens Future of Britain's Nuclear Industry: MPs

LONDON - MPs from the House of Commons warned Tuesday that the government has left Britain's nuclear industry at risk in the case of leaving the European Union (EU). The all-party Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy committee said the government must act urgently to ensure the industry's continued operation after Brexit.

The MP who chairs the committee, Iain Wright, said Prime Minister Theresa May has made it politically unfeasible for Britain to remain long term in



Euratom, Europe's atomic energy community, set up by the EU in 1957.

A report from the committee recommends maintaining access to the Internal Energy Market and retaining membership of the Emissions Trading System

until 2020 at least. MPs say that in the longer term they are concerned that Britain will become a "rule taker", complying with, but unable to influence European rules and standards. The report cautions that Brexit ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

Merkel Tells Putin: Implement Minsk to Get EU Sanctions Lifted

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel called on all sides in the conflict in Ukraine to work toward the ceasefire envisaged by the Minsk accords, saying implementation of those agreements could lead to the lifting of EU sanctions against Russia.

Speaking in the Russian town of Sochi after discussions with Russian President Vladimir Putin, Merkel said there was no need to replace the Minsk process, which is designed to bring an end to the conflict between Moscow-backed rebels in Ukraine's east and the Kiev government.

"For me the aim is to reach the point in the implementation of the Minsk accords where we can lift the European Union's sanctions against Russia," Merkel said. (Reuters)

Erdogan Warns Turkey Could 'Say Goodbye' to EU

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Tuesday warned Brussels that Turkey would bring the curtain down on its over half-century bid to join the European Union if new accession chapters were not opened.

Erdogan's threat to say "goodbye" to the European Union came minutes after he rejoined Turkey's ruling party in the first major change to come into effect following a controversial vote to boost his powers.

Relations between Ankara and Brussels have tumbled to unprecedented lows following a failed coup bid on July 15. The EU is troubled by the state of human rights in Turkey, while Turkey is slamming what it sees as a lack of solidarity from the bloc.

Erdogan last month narrowly won a referendum on sweeping constitutional changes to create a presidential system. But the victory was contested by the opposition and gained only the most tepid of welcomes in Brussels.

"There is no option other than opening chapters that you have not opened until now," Erdogan said, referring to the individual policy areas that need to be concluded before Turkey joins the EU.

"If you open, then great. If you don't open, then goodbye," Erdogan said. "Turkey is not their (the EU's) doorman," he added.

Sixteen chapters have been opened out of a total of 35 since accession talks began in October 2005, although Turkey's bid to be a part of the bloc dates back to the 1960s. (AFP)

Putin Says Wants Impartial Investigation into Syria Chemical Attack

SOCHI, Russia - Russia condemns the use of chemical weapons by anyone and wants a full and impartial investigation into last month's poison gas attack on the Syrian city of Khan Sheikhoun, Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Tuesday. "Those guilty must be found and punished," Putin told a news conference after talks with German Chancellor Angela Merkel held in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi. "But this can be only done after an impartial investigation."

"A solution in Syria can be only found by peaceful means and under the aegis of the United Nations," Putin said. (Reuters)

Putin Tells Merkel He's Eager to Discuss Ukraine, Syria

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin welcomed German Chancellor Angela Merkel to his Black Sea residence on Tuesday for talks expected to focus on the unresolved conflict in eastern Ukraine and the civil war in Syria.

Germany and Russia are at odds over both conflicts, but Putin has appeared eager to improve ties. Merkel's one-day trip to Sochi is her first visit to Russian in two years.

In opening the talks, Putin said: "We must use this opportunity to talk about our relations and about more problematic issues, such as Ukraine and Syria and perhaps some other regions."

Putin and Merkel last met in Germany in October for talks aimed at reviving the stalled peace process in eastern Ukraine. A peace deal brokered by Germany and France in 2015 has helped reduce the scale of the fighting, but violence has continued and attempts to reach a political settlement have failed.

Tuesday's meeting comes amid tensions between the two countries over Germany's support for EU sanctions imposed on Russia because of its annexation of Crimea and support for the separatists in eastern Ukraine. Merkel and Putin last met in Germany in October for talks aimed at reviving the stalled peace process. (AP)