

G7 Summit Highlights Downside Risks, Counter-Terrorism Efforts

ISE - Global economic growth is an "urgent priority" that should be enhanced with "all policy tools," and joint efforts would be made to combat terrorism and climate change, said leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations after wrapping up a two-day summit on Friday. In a joint declaration adopted at the summit, G7 leaders reiterated that while global recovery continues, growth remains moderate and uneven, and downside risks to the global outlook have



increased. "Escalated geo-political conflicts, terrorism and refugee flows complicate

the global economic environment," it said, adding that Britain's possible exit from the EU would

reverse the trend toward greater global trade and investment, and is a further serious risk to

growth. The leaders pledged to strengthen economic policy responses in a co-

operative manner and to employ a more forceful and balanced policy mix in order to swiftly achieve a strong, sustainable and balanced growth pattern. The declaration highlighted the need to strengthen global demand and address supply constraints while continuing efforts to put debt on a sustainable path. It also called for all countries to refrain from competitive devaluation. A stable and resilient international financial architecture is critical for economic growth, it said. ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Extension of Anti-Russia Sanctions No Good for World Economy: Kremlin

MOSCOW - The decision of the Group of Seven (G7) to extend sanctions against Russia will not have a positive impact on the global economy and on global affairs, the Kremlin said on Friday. Earlier in the day, the G7 which includes Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, representing the world's major industrial nations, said in a statement that

they had decided to extend sanctions against Russia or even adopt "new restrictive measures." "The Kremlin's position has not changed: we still believe that this is not an issue on our agenda," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted as saying by the RIA Novosti news agency. The West has imposed several rounds of sanctions against Russia over its takeover of the Crimean



peninsula and alleged interference in the Ukraine crisis since 2014. On Friday, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Ser-

gei Ryabkov slammed as "absurd" when commenting on the G7 statement, which relates its extension ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

Putin Visits Greece to Boost Bilateral Cooperation

ATHENS - Russian President Vladimir Putin arrived in Greece on Friday for a two-day working visit which both sides have welcomed as another step in the enhancement of bilateral collaboration in several sectors. Greek state TVERT showed the Russian leader arriving at the Athens International Airport amid heightened security measures heading a large delegation of ministers and other officials and businessmen, including the CEOs of gas and oil giants Gazprom and Rosneft. In his first visit to Greece after a decade following

a meeting with his Greek counterpart Prokopis Pavlopoulos at the Presidential mansion, Putin was scheduled to hold talks with Greek Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras. A series of declarations and agreements on energy, tourism, technology, and science are to be signed before the Russian leader visits a museum in Athens on Friday evening and leaves for northern Greece on Saturday to pay a short visit to the monastic community of Mount Athos, Greek national news agency ANA-MPA reported. ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Islamic State Drives Syria Rebels from Near Turkish Border

BEIRUT - Islamic State fighters captured territory from Syrian rebels near the Turkish border on Friday and inched closer to a town on a supply route for foreign-backed insurgents fighting the jihadists, a monitoring group said. The ultra-hardline group has been fighting against rebels in the area for several months. The rebels, who are supplied via Turkey, last month staged a major push against Islamic State, but the group counter-attacked and beat

them back. The United States has identified the area north of Syria's former commercial hub Aleppo as a priority in the fight against the Islamic State group (IS). The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said Friday's advance was the biggest by IS in Aleppo province for two years. It brought the jihadists to within 5 km (3 miles) of Azaz, a town near the border with Turkey through which insurgents have been supplied. ...*(More on P4)...(28)*

Greece Evacuates Largest Informal Refugee Camp

IDOMENI - By Friday, little was left in the border village of Idomeni that reminds of the presence of refugees. The railway line, which had been occupied for 70 days in protest of border closure, was cleared and repaired before resumption of train services. The resumption of train services at Idomeni marks the successful conclusion of a three-day police operation to evacuate the largest informal refugee camp at the small village near the border with the

Republic of Macedonia. Greek Public Order Minister Nikos Toskas has made a visit to the camp, saying that the government was satisfied with the conclusion of the operation as planned, "with respect to the people who fled wars to save their lives and seek a better future in Europe." Speaking on local MEGA TV channel in Athens, Deputy Minister for Migration Policy Yannis Mouzalas said the government was determined to "put an end to the shame of the favela and make



sure it will not be created again." Meanwhile, Greek ministers said that more evacuation operations will be carried out in the coming weeks to relocate all refugees

into state-run hospitality centers with better conditions and sufficient aid. Over the past three days, bulldozers knocked down ...*(More on P4)...(29)*

Delay in Separating Opposition from Terror Groups May Overturn Truce in Syria: Russia

MOSCOW - A senior Russian officer on Friday criticized the United States for its delay in separating moderate opposition detachments in Syria from terrorist groups, which could "overturn the truce" in the war-torn country. Sergei Rudskoy, chief of the Main Operational Directorate of the Russian General Staff, said at a news briefing that such delay would "not only discredit the moderate opposition, but also sabotage the peaceful process and may provoke new hostilities." He warned that the



al-Nusra Front terrorist group, which took advantage of the truce regime and their location in the same areas as the moderate opposition is safe from Russian airstrikes, has partially regained its fighting

ability, replenished stocks of arms and ammunition and conducted active operations. Russia has proposed that the United States persuade representatives of ...*(More on P4)...(30)*

Saudi Arabia Biggest Sponsor of Terrorism: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran says Saudi Arabia is the "biggest sponsor of terrorism" in Iraq and elsewhere, dismissing Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir's allegations that Iran was meddling in regional affairs. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossein Jaber Ansari was reacting on Friday to Jubeir's "foolish" remarks about Iran's role in Iraq and the presence of its military advisers, including Qassem Soleimani, the Fars news agency said. "The presence of Iran's military advisers in Iraq under the command of General Qassem Soleimani is at the request of the country's legitimate government in order to fight terrorists and extremists who have beset Iraq and the region with instability and insecurity, ...*(More on P4)...(31)*

Iraqis Fleeing Mosul to Syria, up to 50,000 Anticipated: UNHCR

GENEVA - More than 4,200 Iraqis from Mosul fled to Syria in May, the United Nations refugee agency said on Friday, adding it is gearing up for up to 50,000 people to leave the Islamic State-held city and cross the border. Driving the exodus appear to be reports that IS militants have stepped up executions of men and boys in Falluja since Iraqi government forces launched an offensive to re-take the city, where people are also dying of starvation, the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) said. The Iraqi army launched an offensive on Monday to dislodge the ultra-hardline Sunni militants from Falluja, 50 km (32 miles) west of Baghdad. Falluja was the first Iraqi city to fall under Islamic State control, in January 2014, and has been under a tight siege for about six months. Iraqi forces, ...*(More on P4)...(32)*

Al Qaeda Still Reaping Oil Profits in Yemen Despite Battlefield Reverses

DUBAI/LONDON/CAIRO - Al Qaeda may have been pushed out of the enclave it carved out in Yemen as the country descended into civil war, but the militants are still entrenched in other parts of the country's south, reaping profits from smuggled fuel. Scores of militants were killed in a Gulf Arab-backed offensive on Al Qaeda's de facto capital of Mukalla, Yemen's third largest seaport, but hundreds fled to neighboring Shabwa province and beyond. A month later, al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula (AQAP) is thriving by joining diverse armed groups in taxing fuel delivered illicitly to remote beaches along the Arabian Sea coast, security, tribal and shipping sources say. Home to Yemen's largest industrial project, a now-shut liquefied ...*(More on P4)...(35)*

Cyprus Says to Resume Stalled Peace Negotiations

NICOSIA - The stalled Cyprus peace talks will resume after the UN offered explanations about a protocol slip that implied recognition of a breakaway state in the occupied part of Cyprus, the Cypriot government said on Friday. Government spokesman Nicos Christodoulides said in a written statement that UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon called President Nicos Anastasiades telling him that the UN recognizes only the Cyprus Republic and its government under Anastasiades. The Cypriot president pulled out of a meeting with Turkish Cypriot leader Mustafa ...*(More on P4)...(33)*

EU Launches Tool to Help Member States Comply with Environmental Legislation

BRUSSELS - The European Commission said Friday it launched an implementation tool to help European Union (EU) member states comply with environmental legislation. The Environmental Implementation Review (EIR) would give the first comprehensive overview on the state-of-play of how key environmental policies and laws have been implemented on the ground in member

states of the EU. The aim of this process is to help member states comply with the rules, anticipate problems and identify solutions and priorities before formal infringement proceedings are initiated, said the Commission in a press release. The EIR is to publish country-specific reports every two years, focusing on essential topics in the area of environmental legislation, based on which high level discus-

sions in the Environment Council are envisioned on significant implementation gaps common to several member states. Full implementation of EU environmental legislation could save the EU economy 50 billion euros (56 billion U.S. dollars) every year in health costs and direct costs to the environment, estimated the Commission. "The Environmental Implementation Review ...*(More on P4)...(34)*

Neighbor News

IAEA Verifies Iran's Compliance with JCPOA

TEHRAN - The UN nuclear agency has verified Iran's compliance with the landmark nuclear agreement, dubbed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Tehran and the P5+1 group of countries in July 2015. In its second quarterly assessment since the implementation of the JCPOA in January, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) said Iran "has not pursued the construction of the existing Arak heavy water research reactor" and has "not enriched uranium" above low levels. "Throughout the reporting period, Iran had no more than 130 metric tonnes of heavy water ... Iran's total (low) enriched uranium stockpile did not exceed 300 kg," the IAEA added. According to the UN nuclear agency, no en-

riched uranium has been accumulated through research and development activities. "All stored centrifuges and associated infrastructure have remained in storage under continuous Agency (IAEA) monitoring," the report pointed out. After Iran and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, China and Russia - plus Germany started implementing the JCPOA on January 16, all nuclear-related sanctions imposed on Iran by the European Union, the Security Council and the US were lifted. Iran, in return, has put some limitations on its nuclear activities. The nuclear agreement was signed on July 14, 2015 following nearly a decade of on-and-off intensive talks. (PressTV)

Pakistan, Romania Ties Need to be Translated into Strong Partnership; Sartaj Aziz

ISLAMABAD - Adviser to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Sartaj Aziz said the mutual good will and friendship that exists between the two countries need to be translated into strong political and economic partnership. He was talking to State Secretary for Global Affairs of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Romania Daniela Gitman, who called on him here at the Foreign Office. The State Secretary is on a three-day official visit to Pakistan to lead Romanian delegation for the Pakistan-Romania Bilateral Political Consul-

tations. The Adviser expressed satisfaction over the growing cooperation between the two countries in the fields of economy, defence, parliamentary exchanges, education and culture. Aziz also briefed the Romanian State Secretary on Pakistan's contribution in the war against terrorism and the successes achieved during the military operation Zarb-e-Azb, as well as the National Action Plan to address the challenges of terrorism and extremism. Regional and global issues also came under discussion. (APP)

China Expresses Dissatisfaction with G7 Statement on South China Sea

BEIJING - China on Friday said it was strongly dissatisfied with a statement by G7 members, in which they expressed concern over the South China Sea. Leaders of the G7 countries -- Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States -- and representatives from the European Union, convened in Japan's Ise-Shima for the summit, which ran Thursday through Friday. "As the G7 host, Japan is hyping up the South China Sea issue and fanning the flame of tensions," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said, adding that such action was not beneficial to stability in the South China Sea and

does not accord with the G7's position as a platform for managing the developed economies. "China is strongly dissatisfied with what Japan and the G7 have done." Hua said, urging G7 members to avoid irresponsible remarks and do more that is beneficial to regional peace and stability. Hua called on G7 members to be objective and fair and abide by their promise of not taking sides on territorial disputes. "As the world is faced with a complicated economic situation, the G7, as a platform to discuss world economy, should focus on economic and development issues of ...*(More on P4)...(36)*

Tajikistan does Not Hope for Early Settlement of Landmine Problems with Uzbekistan

DUSHANBE - Deputies of the Majlisi Namoyandagon (Tajikistan's lower chamber of parliament) on Tuesday unanimously seconded a draft law on humanitarian demining activity worked out by the country's government. Presenting the bill, Muhabbat Ibrohimzoda, Director of the Mine Action Center of Tajikistan, noted that 374 Tajik nationals have been killed and 485 others have been injured in landmine explosions

over the past twenty years. According to him, two Tajik combat engineers were killed and twenty other were injured during demining operations. "To-date, 16.3 square kilometers of the mine-strewn areas have been cleared in Tajikistan," Ibrohimzoda noted. In Tajikistan, minefields mostly remain in districts subordinate to the center (Rasht Valley) and along the Tajik-Afghan border, he added. ...*(More on P4)...(37)*