

# World Set to Bust Global Warming Goal, but U.N. Cool on Threat from Trump

GENEVA - Greenhouse gas emissions are on course to be about 30 percent above the 2030 global target, but there are signs of a move away from fossil fuels that not even U.S. President Donald Trump can stop, the United Nations said on Tuesday.

Trump has announced he will pull out of the Paris climate agreement under which 195 countries pledged to try to keep global warming to "well below" 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) above pre-industrial times.

An annual U.N. audit of progress toward that goal showed emissions are likely to be 53.0-55.5 billion



tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent per year by 2030, far above the 42 billion ton threshold for averting the 2 degree rise.

But U.N. Environment chief Erik Solheim hailed signs of progress, with an apparent three-year plateau in carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuels, cement production and other industrial processes, largely due to slower growth in coal use in China and the United States. "We all know the bad news. In my view however we are at a turning point where the good news is taking precedence from the bad news," he told an event to launch the report in Geneva. (Reuters)

## UN ESCAP Calls for Urgent Action on Disaster Resilience in South, Southwest Asia

KATHMANDU - Risks from natural hazards are gradually outpacing resilience in South and Southwest Asia and have the potential to reverse hard-won development gains in the sub-region, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) said here in a report on Tuesday.

Launching the sub-regional report in Kathmandu, head of the UN ESCAP Sub-regional Office for South and South-West Asia, Michael Williamson, underscored that "the 2030 Agenda for

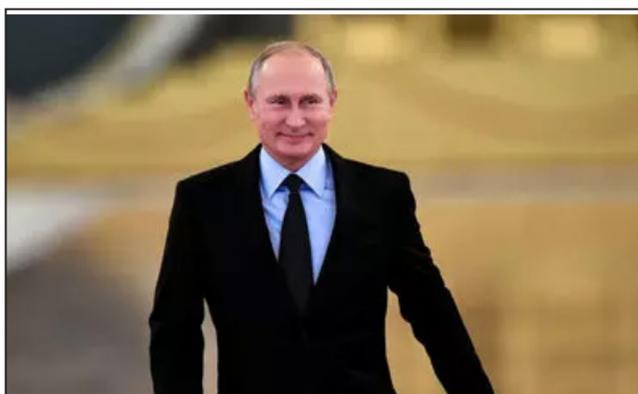
Sustainable Development recognizes the devastating and pervasive impacts that natural disasters can have and incorporates the principles of disaster risk resilience as a central tenet of the promise to leave no one behind."

"In South and Southwest Asia, protecting livelihoods from the impact of disasters must move to the top of the policy agenda, with the recognition that even the most efficient early warning systems may not be sufficient," Williamson told the media. (Xinhua)

## Syria, Oil High on Putin's Agenda on Trip to Iran on Wed: Kremlin

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin will discuss the Syria crisis and energy cooperation with Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and Iran's top authority supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei when he visits Tehran on Wednesday, the Kremlin said on Tuesday.

"Syria-related issues will be on the agenda of the Russian-Iranian bilateral talks," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told a conference call with reporters. He did not elaborate. Putin will also hold



trilateral talks with Rouhani and Iham Aliyev, the president of Azerbaijan, during his working visit to Tehran, Peskov said. (Reuters)

## UK's Brexit Preparations Accelerating, Cabinet United Behind May: Spokesman



LONDON - Britain is speeding up preparations for leaving the European Union, employing thousands more workers to make sure customs posts, laws and systems work on

day one of Brexit, Prime Minister Theresa May's spokesman said on Tuesday. May, weakened after losing her governing Conservatives' majority at a June election, has been

criticized by Brexit campaigners for being slow to prepare for a "no deal" scenario where Britain leaves the EU without an agreement on future ties.

With talks to unravel more than 40 years of union hamstrung over what Britain should pay to leave the bloc, May is keen to nudge the talks forward to discuss future trading arrangements, aware that there are only 17 months of talks left.

"Alongside the negotiations in Brussels, it is crucial that we are putting our own domestic preparations in place so that we are

ready at the point that we leave the EU," the spokesman told reporters. "The preparatory work has seen a significant acceleration in recent months. Departments are preparing detailed delivery plans for each of the around 300 programs under way across government."

May wants to silence critics in her ruling Conservative Party who are pressing her to walk away from talks, which have faltered over how much Britain should pay to leave the bloc, and also to step up the negotiations. (Reuters)

## 'Not One Piece of Evidence' Russia Interfered in US Polls: Lavrov

MOSCOW - Russia's foreign minister on Tuesday said there was no evidence the country had interfered in US elections, after a Washington probe accelerated with charges against three former aides to Donald Trump's presidential campaign.

"We are accused of interfering not only in US elections but also in those of other countries without one piece of evidence," Sergei Lavrov told reporters in Moscow.

Russia has repeatedly denied any attempt to influence the 2016 presidential election. On Monday Trump's ex-campaign chairman Paul Manafort and another former aide appeared in court, pleading not guilty to conspiracy against the US, money laundering and several other charges after the indictments in the Russia probe were unsealed.

Facebook, Google and Twitter are expected to tell Congress this week that Russian-backed content aimed at manipulating US politics during last year's election was more extensive than first thought, US media reported. (AFP)

## S.Korean President's Chief Policy Secretary Vows Growth with Righteous Economy

SEOUL - Chief policy secretary for South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday vowed growth with a righteous economy that would be achieved by income-based growth, innovative growth and fair economy.

The Moon Jae-in government aimed to create a righteous economy, in which household income grows in proportion to the growth of the national economy and people share the growth fruits together, Jang Ha-sung, chief of Staff for Policy to President Moon, told a press conference with foreign correspondents.

Jang said the administration aimed at an economy, where its focus is placed on people and households, as an aim-lost growth of the national economy lasted long with no expansion of household income and only widened disparity between the high- and low-income bracket and between the large and small corporations.

The Moon administration has always kept in mind a grave responsibility for meeting people's expectations as it was created by the candlelit rallies, said Jang, a former finance professor in Seoul whose shareholder activism contributed much to improving corporate governance of South Korean family-controlled conglomerates, called chaebol here.

To achieve the goal of creating a righteous economy, Jang said the government will push for three key tasks: growth led by job creation and household income, growth led by innovative industries and fair market in which any unfair business practices are punished severely. (Xinhua)

## Russia Invites Kurds to Syrian People's Congress: Kurdish Official

BEIRUT - Russia has invited the Kurdish-led authorities in northern Syria to its proposed congress of Syria's rival parties, a senior Kurdish official told Reuters on Tuesday.

The congress would focus on looking for "compromise solutions towards the political settlement" more than six years into Syria's conflict, a Russian negotiator has said.

"We are studying the issue and our stance has been positive so far," said Badran Jia Kurd, an adviser to the administration that governs



Kurdish-led autonomous regions of northern Syria. They received the invitation at meetings with Russian officials in northern Syria last month and favor the idea as it strives for a political end to the conflict, he said.

Throughout the war, the main Syrian Kurdish parties have been left out of peace talks at the request of Turkey, which views the Syrian Kurdish YPG militia as a security threat on its border. Since 2011, the YPG and its allies have carved out cantons in the north and now hold at least a quarter of the country. (Reuters)

## German FDP Leader Presses Greens to Compromise on Immigration

BERLIN - Germany's Greens need to compromise on immigration policy if talks on forming a new governing coalition are to succeed, the leader of the Free Democrats (FDP) said, putting the chances of a deal at 50-50.

Chancellor Angela Merkel is trying to form a coalition with the FDP and Greens after her conservatives lost support to the far right in a federal election last month. The three-way alliance is untested at national level.

"I still see the biggest differences with the

Greens," FDP leader Christian Lindner said in an interview with the Rheinische Post newspaper.

"Germany is at the limit of what the majority are ready to provide in humanitarian aid," he said, adding that "realism cannot be sacrificed in a readiness for coalition." The three parties found common ground in areas of social policy and digital infrastructure during talks on Monday, but remained far apart on issues of immigration, fiscal and climate policies that divided them last week. (Reuters)

## U.S. Treasury Secretary doesn't See Lot of Demand for Ultra-Long Bonds

WASHINGTON - U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said on Monday that he didn't see a lot of demand in the U.S. markets for ultra-long Treasury bonds.

"We've done a bunch of research and reached out and at least as of now, we don't see a lot of demand for it," Mnuchin said in an interview with Bloomberg News, adding he initially thought the concept of ultra-long bonds made sense for the U.S. Treasury to explore.

"If we could issue ultra-long bonds at the same yield as 30-year bonds, it makes a lot of sense for us to extend the duration," he said. However, if it turns out there's a big premium to issue ultra-long bonds, "there's no reason for us to do that."

The U.S. Treasury said in May that the department was studying the possibility of issuing ultra-long bonds, with tenors greater than 30 years. Currently, the Treasury only issues 10-year and 30-year long-term bonds.

In a letter to Mnuchin in that month, the Treasury Borrowing Advisory Committee of the Securities Industry and Financial Markets Association (SIFMA), a government-appointed panel of external experts, had concluded that "there is little evidence of strong or sustainable demand" for ultra-long bonds in the U.S. markets.

The advisory committee also noted that foreign demand for ultra-long bonds was likely to be low, as foreign holdings of U.S. Treasuries are predominantly shorter maturity. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Trump's Visit Great Opportunity for China-U.S. Relations: Chinese Ambassador

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump's upcoming visit to Beijing will be a great opportunity for China-U.S. relations, said Cui Tiankai, Chinese ambassador to the United States on Monday.

Cui made the remarks at a press briefing held at the Chinese embassy in Washington.

HISTORIC OPPORTUNITY

Trump is expected to visit China next month as part of his five-stop tour in Asia that will also take him to Japan, South Korea, Vietnam and the Philippines.

His tour to Beijing will make him the first visiting foreign head of state after the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), Cui said.

The visit will be a great opportunity for China-U.S. relations, especially after the 19th CPC National Congress which reaffirmed that China will continue to follow the path of peaceful development, noticed the ambassador.

China will continue to seek the expansion and convergence of common interests with the rest of the world, and will continue to stand for better, closer, and more effective coordinations with other countries, especially the United States, said Cui.

President Trump will come to China at the very historic moment, and his visit will continue his strategic communications with Chinese President Xi Jinping on the basis of their earlier "very good dialogue", phone calls and a number of letters, Cui said. "Our teams are working very closely for President Trump's state visit, and we hope it will be a successful and very productive visit," Cui said.

During the interview, Cui mentioned that China will be glad to provide an "state-visit-plus" experience for President Trump and his family. (Xinhua)

### Regional Nations Must Solve their Own Problems: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called on regional countries to try and resolve their problems via dialog in order to avoid foreign interference.

Rouhani made the remarks following a meeting with Iranian Judiciary Chief Sadeq Larijani and Iranian Parliament speaker Ali Larijani on Monday.

He added that the US and its allies are constantly attempting to spread terrorism and generate "insecurity and instability" in the Middle East. He went on to note that the West also creates

disagreements among regional countries to bolster their weapons sales. "We believe that regional issues must be solved by the countries of the region," he stressed.

"Attempts by the global arrogance to change the geographical borders in the Middle East have all proved futile," he added.

Rouhani underlined that Donald Trump's administration's stance on Iran's historic nuclear deal is a plot by Washington to sow discord and divisiveness about the economic growth of the country among Iranians. (Presstv)

### Mamnoon Stresses Strong Pak-Sri Lanka Ties

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain on Tuesday said Sri Lanka is the closest friend of Pakistan and stressed the need to further enhance trade relations between the two countries.

The President expressed these views in a meeting with Pakistan's High Commissioner-designate to Sri Lanka Maj. Gen. (r) Shahid Ahmed Hashmat who called on him here at Aiwan-e-Sadr.

The President emphasized that maximum cooperation must be extended to Sri Lanka in the field of investment and Sri Lankan investors should be encouraged to invest in Pakistan.

He said the followers of all religions enjoyed complete freedom in Pakistan and called for promoting religious tourism between the two countries.

The President said Buddhist tourists visiting Pakistan were being provided all possible facilities. He said Pakistan offered opportunities of quality education, which could be availed by Sri Lankan students. (Monitoring Desk)

### Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan - Key Countries of the Region

TASHKENT - Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan are the key countries of Central Asia, having close position on many of the regional and international issues, said the director of Kazakhstan Institute of Strategic Studies Zarema Shaukenova during the press conference on 25 years of diplomatic cooperation between Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan, Kazakh media outlets reported.

"Our states have similar positions on the water and energy issues, joint infrastructure projects and the settlement of the situation in Afghanistan. The water issue is of great importance for the further development of the entire Central Asian region. Another important point of our cooperation is the problem of preserving the environment, restoring the area around the Aral Sea, which has suffered from irrational water use," said Shaukenova.

She also added that Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan play a stabilizing role in Central Asia, making an important contribution to the strengthening of peace and security of the region.

"Our countries continue to work on promotion of Central Asian issues on the agenda of the UN Security Council. Primarily, it includes regional security, combating terrorism and extremism, solving economic and environmental problems." (Trend)