

# Trump to Work with China to Promote Peace, Prosperity: McMaster

WASHINGTON - U.S. National Security Adviser H.R. McMaster said Thursday here that President Donald Trump looks forward to his upcoming visit to China and is ready to work with Beijing to promote peace and prosperity in the region and beyond. China is "an immensely important part of ... regional security as well as protecting and advancing the systems that have benefitted all of us," McMaster told reporters. "These are really the rule-based security, economic, political and diplomatic organizations and systems that emerged after the bloodiest war in human history in the



previous century," he added. "We have to really work hard to preserve and advance what has lifted so many people out of poverty, and what has prevented great-power conflict for 70 years. We cannot take it for granted."

"So I know the president is committed to working with China, with President Xi in particular, and with all leaders in the region, to make sure that for the next 70 years, we enjoy a degree of prosperity and security we've enjoyed over the past 70 years," he said.

Trump will start his 12-day Asia trip on Friday to Japan, South Korea, China, Vietnam and the Philippines. (Xinhua)

## UN Report Says IS Members Should Face 'Int'l Crimes' Charges

GENEVA - A UN report released Thursday said the terrorist group calling itself Islamic State perpetrated serious violations that amount to "international crimes" while a nine-month military campaign was carried out to liberate Mosul City in Iraq. The report is published by the UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI) and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) about the actions of IS, also known as ISIL or Daesh. Using direct witness testimony,

the report documents mass abductions of civilians, the use of thousands as human shields, the intentional shelling of civilian residences, and indiscriminate targeting of civilians trying to flee the city. "During the course of the operation to retake Mosul City thousands of civilians were subjected to shocking human rights abuses and clear violations of international humanitarian law," said the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein. (Xinhua)

## Russia Calls Investigation into Use of Chemical Weapons in Syria 'Unprofessional'

MOSCOW - Russia said Thursday it will agree to continue a UN investigation into use of chemical weapons in Syria if the quality of the group's work drastically improves. "We are for the extension because the very fact of using chemical substances as a weapon is a totally unacceptable phenomenon for us, and I hope, for our many partners in the UN Security Council," said Mikhail Ulyanov, Director of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Nonproliferation and Arms Control Department. But the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical

Weapons (OPCW)-UN Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) created to investigate chemical attacks in Syria "should really start working, not as it is doing now," he said at a press conference. Ulyanov said that Russia later on Thursday would present its own draft resolution at the UN Security Council on the extension of the JIM mandate with recommendations for the UN General Secretary and the OPCW head. Last week Russia blocked a UN Security Council draft resolution on the



extension of the JIM mandate, citing the need to examine its latest report which the Foreign Ministry called "superficial and unprofessional." The JIM report issued

later on Oct. 26 attributed the responsibility for the high-profile chemical incident in the town of Khan Sheikhoun in Syria's Idlib province in April to Damascus. (Xinhua)

## Merkel Still Optimistic on Forming New German Coalition



BERLIN - Chancellor Angela Merkel said Friday that she's still optimistic about the chances of disparate parties allying to form Germany's next government after an

initial round of talks produced little visible progress. Germany's Sept. 24 election left Merkel trying to form an untried coalition of her conservative Un-

ion bloc, the pro-business Free Democrats and the traditionally left-leaning Greens. Over the past 10 days, negotiators struggled to find common ground on issues including immigration and refugees, climate protection and agriculture. While Merkel has kept a low profile, prominent figures from other parties have repeatedly sniped at each other. Merkel said there are still "difficult" discussions ahead - "but I still believe that we can tie the ends together if we make an effort, and in a way

that allows every partner to emphasize its identity and something good comes out of it for the whole country." The Free Democrats' leader, Christian Lindner, said the parties have now set out their differing positions "and in the second phase, we now face the task of building bridges." "It is an opportunity if such different parties can agree on what is good for our country, but it is also difficult," said Greens co-leader Katrin Goering-Eckardt. (AP)

## Iran's Nuclear Deal Cannot be Revised: Russia, France

TEHRAN - Macron called Putin on Thursday to ask him about the results of his high-profile visit to Tehran the day before. "In this connection, the two leaders pointed to the need to precisely implement the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) for Iran's nuclear program. They stressed that a unilateral revision of this important agreement would be unacceptable," the Kremlin press service said in a statement. Under the JCPOA, Tehran agreed to limit cer-

tain parts of its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions. While former US President Barack Obama hailed the deal as one of the highlights of his career, his successor, Donald Trump, has blasted it as an "embarrassment." Trump refused to certify Iran's commitment to the deal last month, calling on Congress to fix its "flaws." The US Congress now has less than 60 days to decide whether to reimpose economic sanctions on Tehran. (Presstv)

## U.S. Bomber Drills Aggravate North Korea Ahead of Trump's Asia Visit

SEOUL/WASHINGTON - Two U.S. strategic bombers conducted drills over South Korea, the U.S. Air Force said, raising tensions with North Korea just days before President Donald Trump visits the region seeking to shut down Pyongyang's nuclear program. News of the Thursday's drills was first reported by North Korean state news agency KCNA on Friday, which said the exercises involving South Korean and Japanese fighter jets were a "surprise nuclear strike drill." "The reality clearly shows that the gangster-like U.S. imperialists are the very one who is aggravating the situation of the Korean peninsula and seeking to ignite a nuclear war," KCNA said. Trump arrives in Asia on Sunday, beginning his first trip to the region as president in Japan before heading to South Korea and China, then Vietnam and the Philippines.

A series of missile tests by North Korea and its sixth and largest nuclear test, defying U.N. Security Council resolutions, have fueled the most critical international challenge of Trump's presidency. China, under U.S. pressure to do more to rein in its ally, on Friday stressed that it had been enforcing U.N. resolutions and reiterated its opposition to the use of force. "Over the long term, China has made unremitting efforts to appropriately resolve the peninsula nuclear issue and promote dialogue and negotiation between all parties," Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zuguang told reporters at a briefing in Beijing. The goal of Trump's visit will be to increase international support for efforts to deprive North Korea of resources as leverage to coerce it to give up nuclear weapons, U.S. officials said. (Reuters)

## Trump to Visit S.Korea for Summit, Parliamentary Speech

SEOUL - U.S. President Donald Trump will visit South Korea on Nov. 7 and 8 to hold a summit talk with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and deliver a speech at the National Assembly, the presidential Blue House said here on Friday. Nam Gwan-pyo, second deputy chief of the National Security Office (NSO) of the Blue House, told a press briefing that Trump was scheduled to arrive at South Korea at around noon on Tuesday and will visit the newly renovated U.S. military base in Camp Humphreys in Pyeongtaek, some 40 km south of the capital Seoul. The U.S. president will



host a lunch at the base for both U.S. and South Korean service members and will be briefed by the combined forces on current security situations on the Korean Peninsula, Nam said. Later in the day, President Moon will hold a summit meeting with Trump at the Blue House, and then an expanded meeting at-

tended by major government officials from both sides. After the talks, the two leaders will hold a joint press conference. On the second day, Trump will visit the South Korean National Assembly to deliver a speech, becoming the first U.S. leader to do so in more than two decades. (Xinhua)

## Putin, Trump May Meet Next Week at APEC Summit

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and U.S. President Donald Trump may meet next week at an Asian economic summit amid strains over sanctions against Moscow, the Syria conflict and the investigation into alleged Russian meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign. The Kremlin on Friday said talks were under way to set up an encounter at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in Danang, Vietnam, from Nov. 8-10. Trump told Fox News in an interview

late on Thursday that it was possible he would meet with Putin during the trip. "We may have a meeting with Putin," he said. "And, again - Putin is very important because they can help us with North Korea. They can help us with Syria. We have to talk about Ukraine." Representatives for the White House did not immediately reply to a request for comment on Friday. "It (the meeting) is indeed being discussed," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. (Reuters)

## S.Korea's Blue House Holds Security Meeting to Discuss Unilateral Sanctions on DPRK

SEOUL - South Korea's presidential Blue House held a standing committee meeting of the National Security Council (NSC) on Thursday to discuss the country's unilateral sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the Blue House said here on Friday.

The NSC standing committee meeting was chaired on Thursday afternoon by Chung Eui-yong, top national security advisor to President Moon Jae-in, according to a press release from Moon's office.

The participants discussed standalone sanctions, which the South Korean government can take, based on the result of past consultations with other countries to implement the UN Security Council resolution.

The UN Security Council unanimously adopted a new resolution on Sept. 11 to tough sanctions on Pyongyang over its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3.

Attending the meeting were ministers of foreign affairs and unification, vice defense minister, the presidential chief of staff, deputy chiefs of the National Security Office (NSO) of the Blue House and the coast guard head.

Meanwhile, the committee members discussed ways to prevent South Korean ships from entering the DPRK waters again. A South Korean fishing boat, the 391 Hungjin, reportedly was returned to the country on Friday after entering the DPRK waters and being seized by the DPRK troops for six days. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### China Says Hopes U.S. can 'Help, Not Cause Problems' in South China Sea

BEIJING - China hopes the United States can "help and not cause problems" in the disputed South China Sea, a senior Chinese diplomat said on Friday ahead of next week's visit to Beijing by President Donald Trump. The United States has criticized China's construction of islands and build-up of military facilities in the sea, and is concerned they could be used to restrict free nautical movement.

U.S. Navy ships have also carried out freedom of navigation patrols in the area, angering China. Speaking to reporters about Trump's trip, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Zheng Zuguang said China has indisputable sovereignty over islands and surrounding waters in the South China Sea.

The essence of the South China Sea problem is some regional countries' illegal occupation of some of China's islands and reefs, Zheng said, adding China was willing to resolve issues peacefully through talks with countries directly involved. "The South China Sea issue isn't an issue between China and the United States," he added.

"We hope that as an external party, the United States can plant more flowers and fewer thorns, help and not cause problems". Zheng said he hoped the United States could objectively view the positive developments in the South China Sea and respect efforts by China and Southeast Asian countries to safeguard peace and stability there. (Reuters)

### Pakistan's Former PM Appears in Court on Corruption Charges

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's ousted Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif has appeared before an anti-graft court where his lawyer has asked the judges to merge three corruption cases against him into one. Sharif, who returned from London the previous day, appeared in court on Friday amid tight security, along with his daughter and son-in-law. Information Minister Maryam Aurangzeb says the next hearing is due on Tuesday when the decision on the defense's plea will be announced. The 67-year-old Sharif has

been embroiled in corruption cases stemming from documents leaked from a Panama law firm. He was dismissed from office by the country's Supreme Court in July for concealing assets abroad and other corruption allegations. He was indicted last month and has pleaded not guilty. His wife is receiving medical treatment in London. Copyright 2017 The Associated Press. All rights reserved. This material may not be published, broadcast, rewritten or redistributed. (Monitoring Desk)

### US Trying to Whitewash 9/11 Facts via Wild Claims against Iran: Zarif

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has dismissed US allegations about Iran's support for the al-Qaeda terror group, describing the claims as an attempt to "whitewash" the truth about the role US allies had in the September 11, 2001 attacks. "A record low for the reach of petrodollars: CIA & FDD fake news w/ selective AlQaeda docs re: Iran can't whitewash role of US allies in 9/11," Zarif wrote on his Twitter account on Thursday. Zarif posted the tweet after the release of a 19-

page al-Qaeda report in Arabic, which claimed Iran supported the extremist group before the 9/11 attacks. The document, part of nearly 47,000 documents recently released by the CIA, quoted the group's slain leader Osama bin Laden as saying, "Anyone who wants to strike America, Iran is ready to support him and help him with their frank and clear rhetoric." It claimed that Iran and al-Qaeda could overlook their differences and join forces when it came to confronting the US. (Presstv)

### India Aims at Expanding Ties with Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - President of India Ram Nath Kovind expressed confidence in expansion of ties with Turkmenistan, the Turkmen government said Friday. "Bilateral relations between India and Turkmenistan are traditionally of trust-worthy and friendly nature. I am confident that our ties will continue to strengthen and develop

in various areas," the Indian president said in a letter to his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The two states are involved in a large regional energy project for the construction of the Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Pakistan-India (TAPI) gas pipeline. The total length of the TAPI pipeline will be 1,814 kilometers. (Trend)

### President of Uzbekistan Meets Heads of Government of Several Countries

TASHKENT - The President of Uzbekistan received the heads of government of Tajikistan, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Turkmenistan. Shavkat Mirziyoyev held bilateral meetings with the Prime Ministers of Tajikistan Kokhir Rasulzoda, Kazakhstan Bakytzhan Sagintayev,

Belarus Andrei Kobaykov and Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Esenmyrat Orazgeldiyev who arrived in Uzbekistan to attend the next meeting of the Council of CIS Heads of Government, Uzbek president's press-service reported. (Trend)