

Iran, Russia, Turkey Top Military Officials to Meet on Security Cooperation

TEHRAN - Iran's army chief, Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, is to attend a trilateral meeting with his Russian and Turkish counterparts on security cooperation in the near future, Financial Tribune daily reported on Sunday.

"Soon, the chiefs of the general staff of Russia, Turkey and Iran will hold a trilateral summit," Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ebrahim Rahimpour was quoted as saying.

"They will talk about the security of the region and fighting terrorism,"



Rahimpour said without specifying the venue for the meeting.

"The Astana meetings (on Syrian peace efforts) are going well. We have good consultations with Turkey on regional issues," he said.

Heading a high-ranking military delegation, Chief of the General Staff of Turkey Hulusi Akar paid an official visit to Iran last month to hold talks with senior Iranian officials.

The two sides discussed Iran-Turkey defense ties, regional developments, cooperation on border affairs and the fight against terrorism. (Xinhua)

S. Korea's Blue House Asks People to "Warmly Welcome" Trump's Visit

SEOUL - South Korea's presidential Blue House on Sunday asked people to warmly welcome U.S. President Donald Trump who will make a state visit to the country next week.

Presidential spokesman Park Soo-hyun told a press briefing that the government will treat President Trump as the state guest with respect and warmly welcome him in a bid to turn his visit into a decisive opportunity to make the South Korea-U.S. relations a "great alliance"

beyond the current comprehensive alliance.

The briefing came ahead of Trump's two-day visit to South Korea next week. The U.S. president will hold a summit meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday, delivering a speech to the National Assembly the next day before leaving for China.

The anti-Trump protesters reportedly requested over 100 rallies to be held in Seoul during Trump's two-day stay. (Xinhua)

Trump in Japan for 1st Stop of Asian Tour, Security, Trade in Focus

TOKYO - U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in Japan Sunday for the first stop of his 9-day Asian tour.

The president's Air Force One landed at the U.S. Yokota Air Base in the suburbs of Tokyo Sunday morning, where he gave a speech to the U.S. and Japanese military personnel.

He said that besides tightening ties with allies in security, the U.S. will be seeking "free, fair and reciprocal trade" during the tour.

Trump and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are

slated to play golf Sunday afternoon at a country club outside Tokyo before having dinner together.

Before leaving his office to meet Trump, Abe said he hopes to "make the bonds of the Japan-U.S. alliance even stronger" through the "historical visit."

On Monday, Trump will meet Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko. Later in the day, he will hold a summit and a joint press conference with Abe, during which regional security and trade



issues are expected to be discussed.

While Tokyo is working to bring into effect the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade deal from which the U.S. has

withdrawn, Washington is keen to pursue a bilateral trade deal which has raised concerns on Japan's part that it would be put in a disadvantageous position. (Xinhua)

Germany's Greens Overtake Liberals in Poll as Coalition Talks Continue



FRANKFURT - Germany's environmentalist Green party polled at its highest level this year in a survey published on Sunday, overtaking Chancellor Angela Merkel's other

would-be coalition partner as talks to form a new government continued.

An agreement would see Merkel extend her 12-year spell at the helm of Europe's largest economy,

during which she has helped avoid a collapse of the euro zone and established her country as the bloc's economic powerhouse.

Merkel must bring together the Greens, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and her own conservative bloc to secure a majority, with sticking points including immigration caps, whether to end coal production and increasing defense spending.

The poll published by German daily Bild put the Greens at 11 percent, up by one percentage point

from a week earlier, while the FDP fell by the same amount to 10 percent.

Merkel's Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian CSU sister party were stable at 31 percent while the Social Democrats, who have said they would not renew their ruling coalition with the conservatives, slipped by one percentage point to 21 percent. Party leaders are slated to meet on Monday evening before the larger negotiating teams launch into more detailed talks. (Reuters)

Int'l Media Center for APEC Economic Leaders' Week Put into Operation

DA NANG, Vietnam - The International Media Center for the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Week started to officially receive reporters in this central Vietnamese city on Sunday.

The annual APEC gathering is slated for Nov. 6-11 in Da Nang city, with leaders from the bloc's 21 economies expected to meet on Nov. 10-11.

The three-storey building, refurbished from Da Nang Fair and Exhibition Center, has a floor area of more than 13,000 square

meters.

The center has a reception hall and separate areas for holding press conferences, security checks, healthcare services, among others. It also consists of media booths for major news organizations from Vietnam and abroad.

The key press conference room is a working venue for reporters, where Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang will chair a press conference after the APEC Leaders' Week wraps up on Nov. 11. (Xinhua)

Turkey says Russia postpones Syria peace conference

ISTANBUL - Turkey on Sunday said Russia had decided to postpone a planned Syria peace conference this month that had met with a cool reception from Ankara and its Western allies.

There was no confirmation by Russia of the announcement by President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's spokesman Ibrahim Kalin, who added that Turkey was not planning to attend the event.

Russia was planning to hold the "Congress of Syrian National Dialogue" on November 18 in the Black Sea resort of Sochi to bring together various players in the over six year conflict.

Several Western states had expressed scepticism over the planned conference, saying peace efforts were better off going through the United Nations.

Turkey had also been troubled by the possible involvement of Syrian Kurdish groups like the Democratic Union Party (PYD) which control much of northern Syria but are considered by Ankara to be terror organisations.

The plan had been announced by Russia after the latest peace talks on Syria, also backed by Turkey and Iran, in the Kazakh capital Astana. "We immediately objected," Kalin told NTV television.

"The Kremlin then got in touch with us and said they were postponing the meeting. "So as of now, if there is no change, the meeting will not be taking place on November 18 but at a later date.

Despite being on opposite sides of the conflict, Russia and Turkey have been working together intensely since a 2016 reconciliation deal ended a crisis caused by the shooting down of a Russian war plane over Syria. (AFP)

China May Grasp Climate Leadership at U.N. Talks with Trump Pulling out

BONN, Germany - China has a chance to assert leadership of a global plan to combat global warming this week at the first U.N. climate talks since U.S. President Donald Trump decided to quit the 195-nation Paris Agreement, delegates say.

Government experts are to work on a "rule book" for the 2015 climate pact at the Nov. 6-17 annual meeting in Bonn, Germany. Trump once dismissed climate change as a Chinese hoax to harm the U.S. economy and said in June that he would pull out of the agreement and instead promote U.S.



coal and oil. A formal U.S. withdrawal will take until 2020. No other nation has followed his lead. U.S. influence is likely to wane compared to other big greenhouse emitters led by China, the European Union and India even though Washington will still have a place at the

table in Bonn. "The rest of the world, including all major emerging economies, has made it clear that it is committed to the Paris Agreement," Maldives Environment Minister Thor Abraham, chair of the Alliance of Small Island States (OASIS), told Reuters. (Reuters)

Anti-Coal Protesters March in Germany before Climate Meet

BERLIN - More than 2,500 anti-coal demonstrators protested in the western German town of Kerpen and at a nearby surface-mining site before an upcoming global climate conference in Bonn. The dpa news agency reported Sunday that a large group of the initial protesters split off to march on the mining site behind a banner reading "We Are Nature Defending Itself."

Riot police scuffled with some of the

demonstrators but there were no major incidents reported.

German leader Angela Merkel has been dubbed the "Climate Chancellor" for her ambitious targets for renewable energy, but Germany still gets about 40 percent of its electricity from coal-fired plants.

Before the 2017 U.N. Climate Conference that begins Monday, many protesters have been urging her to move faster to wean the country off coal. (AP)

G7 health summit discusses climate change on health

MILAN - Climate change could drive up to 10 million people from their homes in the near future, according to a Group of Seven (G7) health summit kicking off Sunday in Italy.

The health ministers of host Italy and fellow G7 members Canada, France, Germany, Japan, the U.S., and the UK are meeting Sunday and Monday in the northern city of Milan to discuss the impact of climate change on the health of people and animals, Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin said in a statement.

Increasingly frequent extreme climate events such as heat waves, drought, torrential rainfall and floods will significantly affect human beings and the animals on which many of us depend, according to the Health Ministry.

The number of vulnerable people exposed to heat waves has grown by 125 million between 2000 and 2016, according to data cited by Italian news agency ANSA. A related issue is malnutrition.

Almost every country in the world now faces a nutrition-related challenge, according to the World Health Organization (WHO) Global Nutrition Report 2017. The report found that worldwide, 155 million children under 5 years old are stunted and 52 million children are wasted, meaning they don't weigh enough for their height.

That report - issued on Saturday at a Global Nutrition Summit held in Milan as a satellite event to the G7 health summit - calls for nutrition to be placed at the heart of efforts to fight disease and tackle climate change. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Calls for Stronger Cooperation with U.S. in Next-Generation Nuclear Power Technology

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang has called for closer China-U.S. cooperation in developing the next-generation nuclear power technology, as he met with Bill Gates, co-founder of Microsoft and chairman of TerraPower here Friday.

Speaking highly of the China-U.S. partnership in this field, Li said companies of the two countries have set up a joint venture with each holding half of shares and agreeing to share the intellectual property rights.

TerraPower, LLC signed a joint venture agreement with China National Nuclear Corporation to form the Global Innovation Nuclear Energy Technology Co., Ltd. The two companies plan to work together to complete the Travelling Wave Reactor

(TWR) design and commercialize the TWR technology.

"This is a pioneering work in China-U.S. high-tech cooperation, which is on a voluntary basis. This shows the open attitudes of both sides," Li said. He expected win-win results in this cooperation. China hopes to combine its advantage in talent resources with advanced technologies overseas, and make good use of the internet platform, to promote technological progress that the world can share and benefit from, Li said. Acknowledging the significance of the next-generation nuclear power in the development of future energy technology, Gates said it is important to ensure the energy supply is clean, safe and reliable. (Xinhua)

Nisar Urges Political Forces to Work together for Country's Stability

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PML-N) leader Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan on Saturday urged the political forces to work together in order to bring stability in the country. The former interior minister, whose earlier statements had sparked speculations of internal discord in the PML-N, declined to comment on allegations that former prime minister Nawaz Sharif had been deposed as a result of a conspiracy. "I don't want to get into the debate about whether there was a conspiracy [within the PML-N] or not, but no plot can succeed if there

is unity within the party," he claimed. "The party is united and I'm sure that if we stand together as a strong political party, we will overcome all challenges." He went on to highlight the importance of cooperation between the state institutions in order to strengthen the prevailing democratic system. "This country needs stability right now to counter both internal and external challenges. For that to happen, there must not only be coordination between the state institutions but also respect for each other despite any differences," Nisar maintained. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran, Syria Defense Mins. Call for Closer Military Coop.

TEHRAN - Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami in a Sun. phone talk with his Syrian counterpart called for further cooperation and efforts in the fight against terrorism in region.

During the phone conversation which took place on Sunday, Iranian Minister of Defense and Armed Forces Logistical Support Brigadier General Amir Hatami and Syrian Minister of Defense Fahd Jassem al-Frej exchanged views on the latest status of the two countries' defense cooperation, as well as regional and international developments and the fight against terrorism.

The Iranian minister congratulated his counterpart, as well President Bashar Assad, on the liberation of Deir Ezzor province, and lauded the

Syrian Armed Forces and nation for the five years of resistance against terrorist groups.

Hatami expressed hope for the continuation of Syria's victories and the restoration of peace and security to the war-torn country, adding "the Islamic Republic of Iran is resolute to support Syria in the post-war era."

The Syrian minister, for his part, thanked Iran's efforts in neutralization of terrorist-Zionist plots, adding "the Islamic Republic of Iran has always remained by Syria's side during the high-tension period so that we can defend our legitimate sovereignty." "The unique coordination between Iran and Syria has guaranteed peace, stability and security of both countries and the region," he stressed. (MNA)

Uzbekistan to Attend OPEC, Non-OPEC Meeting

DUBAI - The Central Asian nation of Uzbekistan may attend a meeting of OPEC and non-OPEC producers in Vienna this month as an observer, Saudi Arabia's Energy Minister Khalid al-Falih said on Sunday.

Falih met his counterparts from Russia, Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan in Tashkent on Saturday. The Saudi minister said after the meeting that more work was needed to cut inventories.

"Uzbekistan has responded (positively) to participating at the Vienna meeting this month,

and has expressed its readiness to attend as an observer," Falih said on his Twitter account.

Uzbekistan is a small oil producer with around 594 million barrels of proven crude oil reserves. In 2015, its total petroleum and other liquids production was 78,900 barrels per day (bpd), according to the EIA. Saudi Arabia and Russia are leading a deal between OPEC and non-OPEC producers to cut oil supply, with the aim of draining global inventories and propping up oil prices. (Reuters)