

US will Arm Japan to Knock Down Korea Missiles: Trump

TOKYO - US President Donald Trump refused to rule out eventual military action against North Korea and declared that the United States "will not stand" for Pyongyang menacing America or its allies. In his first stop of an extended trip in Asia, Trump stood with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe at a news conference and suggested the United States will arm Japan, much as the United States has done with allies in the Middle East like Saudi Arabia. He did not deny reports that he has expressed frustration that Japan did not shoot down a ballistic missile North Korea recently fired



over its territory. "He will shoot 'em out of the sky when he completes the purchase of lots of additional military equipment from the United States," Trump said of Abe. "He will easily shoot them out of the sky." Japan, under its war-renouncing Constitution, can shoot down a missile only when it is aimed at the country or in case debris are falling on to its territory. Some hawkish members of Abe's Liberal Democratic Party say that it may be possible to shoot down a missile headed toward Guam in case it causes existential threat to the U.S. as Japan's ally, but experts say that is questionable. (AP)

May Urges 'Culture of Respect' after Abuse Scandal

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May called Monday for a new "culture of respect" in public life amid what she called troubling allegations of sexual harassment and abuse in British politics. May is meeting with other party leaders later in a bid to form a common policy on tackling abuse. The scandal has already triggered the resignation of the country's defense secretary, an investigation of May's deputy and the suspension by their parties of several Conservative and Labour

lawmakers. "Women and men should be able to work free from the threat or fear of harassment, bullying or intimidation," May said in a speech to the Confederation of British Industry group. "But for too long the powerful have been able to abuse their power, and their victims have not felt able to speak out." May said "what has been revealed over the last few weeks has been deeply troubling - and has understandably led to significant public unease." (AP)

MILAN - Group of Seven health ministers have issued a joint statement that says climatic factors impact on human health. Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin told reporters on Monday that the ministers were able to work out wording acceptable to the United States during their ministerial meeting in Milan, while also recognizing the differences in opinion in light of the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris accords. Lorenzin called it "a great political work" to arrive at a document that recalls the U.S. position on climate

G-7 Health Ministers: Climatic Factors Impact Health



change "and yet accepts the impact of climatic factors on people's health." The final declaration states

that "climate and environmental-related factors can aggravate existing health risks and create new threats," and discussed the need to raise awareness of the impact of such factors on health. (AP)

Trump Hails Anti-Terrorism Cooperation with Saudi Arabia



WASHINGTON - President Donald Trump has commended Saudi Arabia on achieving the commitments he announced during the Riyadh Summit earlier this year, including

launching the Terrorist Financing Targeting Center and the Global Center for Combating Extremist Ideology, the White House said on Sunday. Trump made the remarks

in a telephone call with Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz Al Saud on Saturday. Trump also noted that the Saudi top leadership's recent public statements regarding the need to build a moderate, peaceful, and tolerant region are essential to "ensuring a hopeful future for the Saudi people, to curtailing terrorist funding, and to defeating radical ideology - once and for all - so the world can be safe from its evil." The two leaders also discussed the continuing threat of Houthi militias

in Yemen and Saudi Arabia's interception of a missile attack targeting Riyadh launched by Houthi militias on Saturday, highlighting the importance of countering extremist ideologies and championing moderation and tolerance. According to the White House, Trump thanked the king for his support of the U.S. commitment to defeating Islamic State (IS). For his part, King Salman expressed his condolences for the recent terrorist attack in New York City. (Xinhua)

Japan Families of N. Korea Abductees Meet Trump, Seek Help

TOKYO - Shigeo Iizuka, whose sister was abducted by North Korean agents 39 years ago, thanked U.S. President Donald Trump on Monday for meeting with him and the relatives of other abductees, and expressed hope it will lead to a breakthrough in obtaining their freedom. Iizuka, 79, and relatives of seven other abductees met with the visiting U.S. president and sought his help in bringing their loved ones home. Japan says North Korea snatched at least 17 people in the 1970s and '80s to train its spies in

Japanese culture and language so they could pass as Japanese and spy on South Korea. North Korea has acknowledged abducting 13 of them and allowed five to visit Japan. All five stayed instead of returning to North Korea. The North says the other eight have died, without providing convincing proof. Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has made the return of all of the abductees a top policy goal. There has been no sign of progress as tensions have grown because of North Korea's missile and nuclear programs. (AP)

S.Korean President's Approval Rating Rises Ahead of Trump's State Visit

SEOUL - South Korean President Moon Jae-in's approval rating rose last week on expectations for diplomatic and security fruits that can be achieved when U.S. President Donald Trump makes a state visit this week to the country. According to the Realmeter poll released Monday, support for Moon was 70.3 percent last week, up 3.1 percentage points from the previous week. It rose above 70 percent for the first time in about 2 months. It was based on a survey of 2,533 voters conducted from last Monday to Friday. It had 1.9 percentage points in a margin of error with a 95 percent confidence level. Expectations went higher for security and diplomatic fruits, which President Moon can achieve during Trump's two-day trip to South Korea from Tuesday, the pollster said. The agreement between South Korea and China, which was announced last week to return the bilateral relations to a normal development track, also helped boost Moon's support scores. Support for Moon's ruling Democratic Party advanced 2.5 percentage points from a week earlier to 51.7 percent last week. It was followed by the main opposition Liberty Korea Party with 16.8 percent last week, down 2.1 percentage points from a week ago. The centrist People's Party won 6.0 percent in approval scores, while the minor progressive Justice Party and the minor conservative Righteous Party garnered 5.9 percent and 4.8 percent respectively. (Xinhua)

Syrian National Dialogue Congress Postponed Due to Ankara's Disagreement

ANKARA - Russia has postponed Syrian National Dialogue Congress due to Ankara's disagreement with the participation of Syrian Kurdish Democratic Union Party (PYD), Turkish presidential spokesperson said Sunday. Russia announced late last month that the national congress would be held in the Black Sea resort city of Sochi on Nov. 18, with 33 Syrian groups and political parties, including Kurdish groups and anti-Assad rebel factions, invited. Turkish officials in the last Astana peace talks immediately intervened and "the problem



was resolved," Ibrahim Kalin, Turkish presidential spokesperson, said during an interview with private broadcaster NTV. "Ankara told Moscow that this kind of initiatives is not welcomed," he added. "We will not attend it but may send an observer. The Kremlin told us that the meeting has been postponed and the PYD will not be invited," said the spokesperson. Turkey objected to the participation of PYD, which is considered by Ankara as an Syrian affiliate of Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), a terrorist organization listed by Turkey, the United States and the EU. (Xinhua)

Mattis Backs Geneva Process on Syrian Conflict

HELSINKI - U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said on Monday he backed diplomatic efforts to bring an end to the Syrian civil war, which has claimed hundreds of thousands of lives over more than six years of conflict, as Islamic State militants near defeat. Mattis was traveling to Finland to meet with leaders from the Northern Group, a forum for 12 northern European countries, where concern about Russia

is growing after it annexed Crimea from Ukraine and gave its backing to eastern Ukraine separatists fighting against the Kiev government. Russia also supports Syrian President Bashar al-Assad, and with its help Assad has recovered control of swathes of lost Syrian territory over the last two years and appears militarily unassailable. The United States, however, has supported the opposition to Assad during the Syrian war. (Reuters)

Three New Challenges Facing Trump's Fed Chair Nominee: Economist

WASHINGTON - Jerome Powell, U.S. President Donald Trump's nominee for the next chair of the Federal Reserve, will face three new economic challenges to lead the central bank, a leading U.S. economist has said. Trump last week picked the 64-year-old Federal Reserve Board member Powell to succeed current Fed chair Janet Yellen, whose term expires in February. The decision was widely expected and welcomed by financial markets, as Powell could continue Yellen's gradual and cautious approach in tightening monetary policy if confirmed by the Senate. "I think it's actually very good that Powell got the job," said Adam Posen, president of the Peterson Institute for International Economics, a Washington-D.C. based think tank. "The president chose to take someone from the mainstream" who was not attacking the Fed's previous successful policies and would not impose some crazy rules that would raise interest rates a lot for no reason, Posen said in a recent interview with Xinhua. While Powell is known for being a moderate and consensus builder, there are some common challenges that are true for every Fed chair, said Posen, a former policymaker at the Bank of England. "Every Fed chair has to figure out how to work with the committee which includes people at the reserve banks outside of Washington and they're independent people," Posen said, referring to the Fed's policymaking committee. (Xinhua)

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China to Host 4th World Internet Conference in December

BEIJING - China will host the fourth edition of its World Internet Conference (WIC) from December 3 to 5, according to a press release published today on the English website of China's State Council. Chinese President Xi Jinping officially opened the 3rd World Internet Conference with a video message in which he promised China would work with the international community to ensure the common well-being of humanity in cyberspace. Organised by the Cyberspace Administration of China and People's Government of Zhejiang Province, the annual conference will once again be held in Wuzhen in East China. The Chinese river town has now become synonymous as a place with a developed Internet economy and a rich traditional culture.

This year's theme will be 'Developing e-Commerce and Improving Sharing in the Digital Economy - Building a Common Destiny in Cyberspace'. The WIC website adds that leading figures from governments, international organisations, enterprises and NGOs have all been invited to discuss Internet-related topics. The WIC press release also stated that the three-day conference will advocate respect of differences and forging of consensus, as well as focus on development and innovation. This builds on the promise made by Chinese President Xi Jinping in his video message last year's conference that China would work with the international community to ensure the common well-being of humanity in cyberspace. (Agencies)

Pakistan Remains Committed in Combating Terrorism: FO

ISLAMABAD - Spokesperson of the Pakistan's Foreign Office Dr. Faisal said Monday that Pakistan remains committed to combating terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. According to statement issued by foreign office here, Spokesperson said that the FATF is an international body that sets standards relating to combating of money laundering and terrorist financing. "FATF reviews measures taken by all States on an ongoing basis for implementing those standards", he said. He was responding to a question regarding the recently held meeting of the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) in Buenos

Aires, Argentina. Pakistan successfully completed the Action Plan on the implementation of the FATF standards in February 2015. At the Buenos Aires meeting of FATF, the proceedings in the International Cooperation Review Group (ICRG) of FATF appreciated the continued progress made by Pakistan in implementing FATF standards. Any insinuations made to the contrary are only a reflection of a politically motivated strategy to malign Pakistan. The list of countries of concern to FATF is available on FATF's website which does not include Pakistan. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran, Iraq Defense Mins. Talk Security, Bilateral Ties

TEHRAN - Iran's Defense Minister Amir Hatami held a phone conversation with his Iraqi counterpart Erfan al-Hiyali on expansion of bilateral ties and safety of Arbaeen pilgrims. During the phone talk on Monday, Brig. Gen. Amir Hatami congratulated Iraqi army and popular forces on recent victories against terrorism, and highlighted Tehran's strong determination to further improve relations with Iraq. Hatami also exchanged views on the safety of Iranian Arbaeen pilgrims in Iraq, and thanked Iraqi armed and security forces

for their constant efforts to provide security for the pilgrims. The Iraqi defense minister, for his part, expressed his appreciation over Tehran's support for the Iraqi nation and government in the fight against terrorism. Al-Hiyali also extended an invitation to his Iranian counterpart for a visit to Iraq. Large numbers of Iranians have traveled to Karbala to honor the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein, the third Shia Imam. Arbaeen this year falls on November 10. (MNA)

EBRD to Sign New Projects in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - EBRD First Vice President Phil Bennett will visit Uzbekistan to sign the Bank's first new projects since 2010, in banking, agribusiness and pharmaceuticals. In Tashkent, Bennett will meet Prime Minister Abdulla Aripov and other senior officials and speak at the International Conference on Security and Sustainable Development in Central Asia, the Bank reported. He will also open a new office of the Bank in the capital, Tashkent Nov.8, which demonstrates the EBRD's new stage of engagement with Uzbekistan. The EBRD office, headed by Associate Director Alkis Vryenios

Drakinos, will support the expansion of the Bank's operations in the country. The EBRD's near-term objectives in Uzbekistan are to support domestic small and medium-sized enterprises and promote trade finance and cross-border cooperation, as well as to facilitate foreign direct investment and support the government's reform efforts, including those aimed at improving the investment climate. The EBRD Board of Directors is expected to agree a new country strategy for Uzbekistan in 2018, which will set out the Bank's longer-term strategic priorities. (Trend)