

Trump, Moon Agree to Peaceful Resolution of Korean Peninsula Issue, Fair Trade Deal

SEOUL - U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Tuesday agreed to peacefully resolve issues on the Korean Peninsula and swiftly push negotiations for a fair free trade deal between the two countries.

President Moon told a joint press conference with the U.S. leader after a bilateral meeting in the presidential residence that they reached an agreement to peacefully resolve the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and to settle a permanent peace regime on the peninsula.

The U.S. president told the press conference that he did not wish to use force against the Democratic People's



Republic of Korea (DPRK), urging the Asian country to return to a dialogue table and make a deal benefiting both Pyongyang and the entire world.

Asked about whether to accept a direct dialogue offer from the DPRK, Trump declined to comment on it.

Trump took issue with the South Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement, called KORUS FTA, telling the press conference that the current free trade pact with South Korea was "unsuccessful and not very good for the United States." However, he said he was "confident" that the two sides will be able to reach a "free, fair and reciprocal" trade deal. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Willing to Promote Cooperation with Germany: Premier Li

BEIJING - Chinese Premier Li Keqiang said Tuesday that Beijing is willing to join Berlin in promoting bilateral cooperation to a higher level. Li made the remarks in a telephone conversation with German Chancellor Angela Merkel.

The two heads of government spoke highly of the new progress the two sides have achieved over the past year in bilateral ties and cooperation.

This year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between the two countries and Chinese President Xi Jinping paid a successful visit to Germany where he also attended the Group of 20 summit in Hamburg, said Li. He also noted that the

annual meeting between the Chinese premier and the German chancellor has also been fruitful, adding that the two countries have maintained fine communication and coordination over regional and international affairs.

Li said China would like to maintain high-level exchanges with the German side, and ensure the new round of China-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultation a success so as to promote bilateral cooperation to a deeper, broader and higher level. Beijing welcomes businesses of all nations, including those from Germany, to expand their investment in China, and conduct technology and knowledge cooperation, Li said. (Xinhua)

Economic Partnership with China has Huge Prospects of Development: Mamnoon

ISLAMABAD - President Mamnoon Hussain on Tuesday said China had emerged as a major investor and partner for Pakistan with great prospects of materializing the possibilities of development in both countries.

Addressing at the inauguration ceremony of launch of Bank of China's operations in Pakistan, the President said it would become a source of taking this historic friendship to new heights by strengthening the already existing deep relations between the two "iron brothers".

The President said the launch of Bank of China was a memorable event in the everlasting friendship between Pakistan and China which was also a manifestation of this historical fact that

the shared dream of two countries would soon be realized.

He expressed confidence that the sincere relationship between the two countries would further grow in the coming days and the start of operations by Bank of China in Pakistan would further speed up the pace of trade and economic cooperation between the two countries.

The President said the hard work of past several years had created an excellent business environment in Pakistan and the situation was favorable for domestic and foreign investment, while the country's strong and huge consumer market was further increasing the effectiveness of these factors. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Urges EU to Clarify Response to Possible US Withdrawal from JCPOA

TEHRAN - Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Majid Takht-Ravanchi has called on Europe to clarify how it will react if Washington abandons the multinational Iran deal and imposes news sanctions on the country.

Speaking at a conference in the French capital, Paris, on Tuesday, Takht-Ravanchi said that Tehran would not be the first party to withdraw from the nuclear accord, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but it has prepared itself for any scenario.

Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the US, France, Britain, Russia and China - plus Germany signed the nuclear agreement on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016.

Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limits on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran.

However, the new US administration has adopted a combative approach vis-à-vis the deal, with President Donald Trump calling it "the worst deal ever" and repeatedly threatening to withdraw Washington from it. (Presstv)

Uzbekistan Further Liberalizes Foreign Trade Activity

TASHKENT - Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev signed a decree "On measures for further liberalization of foreign trade activities and support of business entities".

The document establishes the procedure under which, starting from December 1, 2017, legal entities and individuals freely choose payment terms for the foreign trade contracts that they concluded.

Mirziyoyev also unified the terms for the formation of overdue accounts receivable on foreign trade operations within 120 days from the date of

export shipment for export and from the date of payment for import operations. The exception will be the goods exported by Uzbek resident-founders to companies abroad and members of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of Uzbekistan to trade and investment houses of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry, as well as the goods imported under contracts concluded in the framework of projects implemented in accordance with the decisions of the President and the Cabinet of Ministers. (Trend)

US Accepts "Climate Change Affects Health" at G7 Meeting in Italy

ROME - The United States have accepted that climate change affects human health, Italian Health Minister Beatrice Lorenzin said Monday at the close of a Group of Seven (G7) meeting of health ministers in Milan.

This outcome is important because U.S. President Donald Trump said in June that he had decided to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement.

In their 11-page final declaration, the health ministers of Canada, France,

Italy, Germany, Japan, the United States, and Britain plus the EU "noted that climate and environmental-related factors can aggravate existing health risks and create new threats." Examples of these threats include "changes in the patterns and increased incidence" of disease, increased water and food insecurity, pollution, poverty and social exclusion, aggravation of gender inequalities, and international migration, according to the declaration. (Xinhua)

UN Climate Talks Open in Bonn with Call to Uphold Paris Agreement Path

BONN - The 23rd Conference of Parties (COP 23) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) kicked off here on Monday with a call to adhere to the path of Paris Climate Change Agreement.

The COP 23 is tasked with mapping out a guideline for the implementation of the Paris Agreement which was agreed on by almost every country in the world in 2015.

The Paris Agreement aims to tackle climate change by cutting greenhouse gas emissions and sets a global target of keeping the average

temperature rise no higher than two degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. At the opening ceremony of the COP 23, UN climate change executive secretary, Patricia Espinosa, said: "Together with the Sustainable Development Agenda, we have a clear path forward to truly address climate change and sustainable development."

Espinosa outlined the work governments will be looking to address in Bonn. The goal, above all, is to take the next essential steps to ensure that the



Paris Agreement's operating system is completed in time and that ways, as well as means to implement it are strengthened.

The newly-elected COP 23 president, Frank Bainimarama, prime minister

of Fiji, said "All over the world, vast numbers of people are suffering, bewildered by the forces against them. Our job as leaders is to respond to the suffering with all means available to us." (Xinhua)

Syria War Does Not End in Deir Al-Zor: Assad



BEIRUT - Syria's army and its allies will keep fighting in Syria after the battle ends in Deir al-Zor province, where Islamic State has its last significant stronghold, President Bashar al-Assad said on Tuesday.

He also indicated that he might take the war to the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), which controls more than

a quarter of Syria, by saying the war targeted those who seek to "divide and weaken states".

His comments came after a meeting with Ali Akbar Velayati, the foreign policy adviser to Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. "The victories against terrorist organizations, starting in Aleppo and not ending in Deir al-Zor, formed a critical strike that foiled partition projects and terrorist goals," Assad's office quoted him as saying.

Assad regards all the groups fighting against

the Syrian state as terrorist groups. The Syrian army, with Russian air power and Iran-backed militias, is waging an offensive against Islamic State in the eastern Deir al-Zor province, mostly on the west banks of the Euphrates River.

The SDF, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab militias, is also battling IS militants in Deir al-Zor. Backed by U.S.-led air strikes and special forces, the SDF has focused on territory east of the river, which bisects the oil-rich province. (Reuters)

APEC Determined to Accelerate Trade Liberalization

DA NANG, Vietnam - All 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) are striving for closer cooperation in trade and investment as it is a driving force for development amid rising anti-globalization and protectionism, an APEC official said on Tuesday.

During the two-day APEC 2017 senior officials' meeting (SOM) which concluded on Tuesday in Vietnam's central Da Nang city, senior officials from the economies discussed measures to speed up free, open trade and investment, which will be fur-

ther touched upon or endorsed by APEC ministers and leaders in the next few days, Bui Thanh Son, Vietnamese vice minister of foreign affairs and APEC 2017 SOM Chair, told a press conference. "Trade liberalization is a core issue in APEC cooperation, and the progress of APEC cooperation has clearly shown that it is a leading cooperation mechanism in the Asia-Pacific region," Son said, noting that the cooperation has brought about encouraging results, with tariffs dropping to 4-5 percent from nearly 20 percent. (Xinhua)

Trump Says Tougher Gun Laws Not Answer after Texas Shooting

SEOUL, South Korea - President Donald Trump says tougher gun laws would not have prevented a mass shooting at a south Texas church, arguing that more restrictions might have led to more casualties.

Trump spoke at a news conference in South Korea Tuesday where he was asked about "extreme vetting" for gun purchases. Trump said: "If you did what you're suggesting, there would have been no difference three days ago and you might not have had that very brave person who happens to have a gun or a rifle in his trunk."

As he did following last month's Las Vegas massacre of 58 people, Trump pushed back against the question, calling it a "situation that probably shouldn't be discussed too much" and noted that he was "in the heart of South Korea."

Trump added that if the Good Samaritan didn't have a gun, "instead of having 26 dead, you would have had hundreds more dead."

Authorities say Devin Patrick Kelley fired at least 450 rounds of ammunition at worshippers in Sunday's attack at the First Baptist Church in Sutherland Springs. The dead ranged in age from 18 months to 77 years old.

Trump's more muted response to gun violence contrasts with his swift call for legislative and military action following the Oct. 31 truck attack in New York City. Within hours of a rental truck ramming through a crowded bicycle path and into a school bus, Trump called for Congress to "immediately" repeal the diversity visa lottery program that suspect Sayfullo Saipov, an Uzbekistan citizen, used to enter the country in 2010. (AP)

Resuming U.S.-Turkey Visa Process Seen as Positive Development: Yildirim

ANKARA - The U.S. and Turkey have resumed visa processes on a limited basis, which is seen as a positive development, Turkish Prime Minister Binali Yildirim said Tuesday.

Speaking at a news conference in Ankara Esenboga Airport ahead of his visit to Washington, Yildirim hopes to improve ties between the two countries.

Turkish Prime Minister denied giving any assurances to U.S. mission staff in Turkey, saying that Turkey is a state of law and negotiation of such requests would violate those principles.

Both countries on Monday



partially resumed visa services after a month-long row over Turkish staffer of a U.S. mission arrested. Yildirim noted that there are Turkish nationals detained in the U.S. and vice versa, and hoped that the U.S. pays attention to Turkey's concerns during their prosecution.

Yildirim said the Syria and

Iraq issues and requests regarding the Gulenists issue and coming steps will top the agenda in his visit. He urged the U.S. judiciary to take immediate steps to extradite Fetullah Gulen, the U.S.-based preacher, who is blamed by Ankara for orchestrating a failed coup attempt on July 15, 2016. (Xinhua)

Ukraine Edges Closer to NATO Membership



KIEV - Ukraine may apply for membership in the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 2020, the state-run newspaper Government's Courier said Tuesday, citing a senior Ukrainian Foreign Ministry official.

The government has defined 2020 as a benchmark for when Ukraine should achieve NATO standards across a number of areas, especially in the defense sector, said Ukrainian Deputy Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko, who is also the head of the country's mission to NATO.

The Membership Action Plan is a NATO program offering advice, assistance and practical support tailored to the individual needs of countries wishing to join the alliance.

Ukraine joined the North Atlantic Cooperation Council in 1991 shortly after Kiev gained its independence from the former Soviet Union.

In 2003, Ukraine declared a course towards NATO membership, but revoked the policy in 2010, declaring non-aligned status.

On June 8 this year, the Eastern European country resumed its course towards joining the alliance, pledging to implement reforms in its security, defense, justice and anti-corruption sectors. (Xinhua)

Greens, FDP Make Concessions in German Coalition Talks

BERLIN - Two German parties aiming to join Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives in a governing coalition dropped demands on tax reforms and climate policy on Tuesday, breaking a logjam after two weeks of often tense negotiations.

With the three camps still divided on several issues, the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) gave some ground, saying they would accept more modest

income tax cuts than a campaign pledge of 30-40 billion euros (\$35-46 billion) of relief. The party would focus instead on securing the abolition of the solidarity tax that Germany introduced after reunification in 1990 to support poorer eastern states, and on tax relief for families and smaller businesses, its leader Christian Lindner told reporters. He was speaking before Tuesday's round of exploratory coalition talks in parliament. (Reuters)