

Trump Warns 'Rogue Regime' North Korea of Grave Danger

BEIJING - U.S. President Donald Trump arrived in China on Wednesday seeking help to rein in North Korea, telling the reclusive state's leader he was putting his country in grave danger by developing nuclear weapons. Trump used some of his toughest language yet against North Korea in a wide-ranging address in Seoul that lodged specific accusations of chilling human rights abuses. He called on countries around the world to isolate Pyongyang by denying it "any form of support, supply or acceptance." "Do not underestimate us and do not try us," Trump told North Korea as he



wrapped up a visit to South Korea with a speech to the National Assembly before heading to Beijing, where he was making his first official visit. Trump painted a dystopian picture of the reclusive North, saying people were suffering in "gulags" and some bribed government officials to work as "slaves" overseas rather than live under the government at home. He offered no evidence to support those accusations.

Trump's return to harsh, uncompromising language came a day after he appeared to dial back the bellicose rhetoric that had fueled fears across east Asia of the risk of military conflict. (Reuters)

Xi, Trump Visit Palace Museum Conservation Workshop

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his wife Peng Liyuan invited their U.S. counterparts to visit the conservation workshop at the Palace Museum Wednesday afternoon. President Donald Trump and his wife Melania Trump arrived in Beijing for a state visit earlier Wednesday. They attended an exhibition of antiques and watched the repair of some historical relics at the museum's conservation workshop, known

as "the antiques hospital." The guests were also invited to experience a Chinese painting being mounted on a scroll. The workshop is the largest cultural heritage conservation center in China. It uses traditional techniques but is equipped with advanced technology. The presidents made positive comments on the deep cooperation in antiques restoration between the two countries. (Xinhua)

U.S. Democrats Optimistic over Midterms after Scoring Two Governor Race Victories

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Democratic Party on Tuesday won both governorship races in the states of Virginia and New Jersey, dealing a heavy blow to the Republicans ahead of the midterm elections next year. In Virginia, a traditional swing state that often sways general elections, army veteran and pediatrician Ralph Northam carried the race with a 9 percent lead over his opponent, Ed Gillespie, a Republican politician and lobbyist. The Democrats further solidified its victory by also winning the seats of the

state's lieutenant governor and attorney general. The governor's race saw the Democrats successfully enlarging the advantage it has in the state since the presidential race last year, flipping at least two voting precincts blue. "In Virginia it's going to take a doctor to heal our differences, to bring unity to our people, and I'm here to let you know that the doctor is in," Northam told cheering crowds Tuesday. "I want to thank all those who voted today, on both



sides," Gillespie said in a graceful acceptance speech dubbed by many commentators as "ugly." Gillespie originally ran a moderate campaign, but after realizing that

tepid words were failing to evoke voters' enthusiasm, he veered down the populist path, changing into tougher rhetoric on immigration and crime-fighting. (Xinhua)

Takes U.S. Claims Iran Violated U.N. Resolutions Seriously: France



PARIS - France's foreign ministry said on Wednesday it was taking accusations by the United States that Iran had violated two U.N. Security Council resolutions seriously and

urged Iran to comply with all its international commitments. The United States Ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley accused Iran on Tuesday of sup-

plying Yemen's Houthi rebels with a missile that was fired into Saudi Arabia in July and called for the U.N. to hold Tehran accountable for violating two U.N. Security Council resolutions. "We take these American indications seriously and attach utmost importance to Iran's compliance with all of its international obligations, including the weapons' transfer bans provided for in UN Security Council Resolutions 2216 and 2231," deputy foreign ministry spokesman Alexandre Georgini

told reporters in a daily briefing. He did not respond when asked whether Paris supported potential measures at the Security Council. France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian has said that he expected a "challenging" meeting with his Iranian counterpart in Tehran when he travels there later this month. He is due to discuss Iran's ballistic missile program, which Paris says goes against U.N. Security Council resolutions, and its regional activities. (Reuters)

EU to Sign Joint Defense Pact in Show of Post-Brexit Unity

BERLIN/BRUSSELS - At least 20 members of the European Union will sign up to a new defense pact next week, heavily promoted by France and Germany, to fund and develop joint military hardware in a show of unity following Britain's decision to quit the bloc. After years of spending cutbacks in Europe and a heavy reliance on the United States through the NATO alliance, France and Germany hope the accord, to be signed on Nov. 13 in Brussels, will tie nations into tighter defense collaboration covering

troops and weapons. The Permanent Structured Cooperation, or PESCO, could be the biggest leap in EU defense policy in decades and may go some way to matching the bloc's economic and trade prowess with a more powerful military. But differences remain between Paris and Berlin over what countries legally bound by the pact should do, EU diplomats said. France wanted a core group of governments to bring money and military assets to PESCO as well as a willingness to intervene abroad. (Reuters)

Chinese, Japanese Experts Explore Oceanic Cooperation

HAIKOU - Experts from China and Japan had explored opportunities to strengthen oceanic cooperation between the two countries through a dialogue held in Haikou, capital of south China's Hainan Province. The 2017 China-Japan Dialogue on Ocean Affairs was jointly held Wednesday by China's National Institute for South China Sea Studies (NISCSS), China Institute of Boundary and Ocean Studies of Wuhan University, and Japan's Ocean Policy Research Institute of the Sasakawa Peace Foundation. Nearly 50 experts and scholars from Chinese and Japanese institutes, universities and think-tanks attended the dialogue. "China and Japan could promote cooperation in maritime search and rescue, and set up an information sharing platform," said Wu Shicun, president of the NISCSS. The two countries should perform their duties and fulfill obligations in regards to the protection of the marine environment, and strengthen cooperation in this area, he added. Wu also suggested China and Japan boost fishery cooperation, enhance fishery management and solve fishery problems in disputed waters. Atsushi Sunami, who is in charge of Japan's Ocean Policy Research Institute, said that the dialogue is expected to set the direction for the oceanic cooperation between the two countries through in-depth discussions. The China-Japan Dialogue on Ocean Affairs was initiated in 2016 by the NISCSS and Japan's Ocean Policy Research Institute, aiming to provide a platform of academic exchange to promote coordination and cooperation in maritime security and ocean management between the two countries. (Xinhua)

Putin and Trump Likely to Meet in Vietnam

MOSCOW - The Kremlin says Russian and U.S. presidents have a busy agenda for their likely encounter on the sidelines of a Pacific nations' summit later this week. President Vladimir Putin's foreign affairs adviser, Yuri Ushakov, said Wednesday the Russian leader will meet President Donald Trump during the sessions of the annual summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum that opens Friday in Danang, Vietnam.



Ushakov said the two leaders may also have a separate "extensive" one-on-one meeting, although no specific time for it has been set yet. Ushakov said "there are things to discuss and

we are ready for it." He noted that the agenda would include the Syrian war, the standoff over North Korean nuclear and missile programs and a crisis in bilateral ties. (AP)

EU Ministers Focus on Input for European Earth Observation Program

TALLINN - The European Space Agency (ESA) informal space ministerial meeting on Tuesday focused on the evolutions of the European Earth Observation Program Copernicus beyond 2020. Estonian Minister for Entrepreneurship and Information Technology Urve Palo said the meeting aimed to provide strategic input for the future of the Copernicus program and to pave the way for the negotiations on the next EU budgetary period. Discussion focused on, among other things, how to foster space entrepreneurship based on the Copernicus satellite data by involving private-sector

investments in a more active way, according to a press release. Palo said due to the growing interest and enhanced investments from the private sector, speed and flexibility are becoming increasingly important factors in global competition. "We want to emphasize that space data is something in which all member states and businesses, regardless of their size, can join in on. The more we create opportunities for the smart use of space data both in the private and public sectors, the more jobs and investments will be made in the areas and regions that have not yet had this experience," she noted. (Xinhua)

Green Party Willing to Compromise on Climate Goals in German Coalition Negotiations

BERLIN - The negotiations for the creation of a new German government entered a new phase on Tuesday as the Greens start making concessions on their climate goals promised during the election campaign. Representatives of the Christian Democratic Union (CDU), Christian Social Union (CSU), Free Democratic Party (FDP) and Greens (Grüne) have signaled their willingness to compromise on Monday to overcome the current impasse in official talks for a "Jamaica" coalition which is labelled for their party colors. Green party leader Cem Özdemir on Tuesday waived his party's demand to ban new gasoline and diesel fuelled cars by 2030. The Greens had previously refused to join the government without the deadline for combustion engines in the coalition agreement. The three parties involved in the negotiations plan to present the interim results on Friday, CDU parliamentarian Michael Grosse-Broemer told press on Tuesday. The coalition negotiations are slowed down by the parties differing positions, especially concerning immigration and climate protection. The Green party's concessions were met with criticism from members of CDU and CSU who have previously refused the implementation of a deadline concerning combustion engines. Head of the Bundestag group of CSU parliamentarians Alexander Dobrindt told newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung on Tuesday that "abandoning nonsensical deadlines" were "not a compromise," since the issue was "never really up for debate." (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Chinese Diplomat Calls for Joint Efforts for Better China-U.S. Relations

SAN FRANCISCO - It is hoped that U.S. President Donald Trump's China visit will add momentum to efforts from both sides to build a relationship of mutual respect and cooperation, a senior Chinese diplomat stationed here said Tuesday. In a signed article published in the Seattle Times, Luo Linqun, China's consul general in San Francisco, elaborated the mutual benefits of the bilateral ties and identified a few stumbling blocks for the further development of the relationship. The article, titled "Building better China-U.S. relations together," said that the Chinese and American peoples are great peoples and if China and the United States work together, both the Chinese Dream and the American

Dream will have a much better chance to come true. Trump's first state visit to China, which begins on Wednesday, comes at an important time, Luo said. "For China, the 19th National Congress of the Chinese Communist Party that just concluded has set the direction for China's future development for at least the next five years. For the United States, it's the first time President Trump will set foot in China," Luo said. He noted that China-U.S. relations have developed steadily amid numerous challenges and dramatic transformations of the world in the past four decades, and that the breadth and depth of this relationship were beyond anyone's imagination more than 40 years ago. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Turned Tide on Terrorism Through Sheer Commitment, Sacrifices: Asif

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif said that Pakistan had turned the tide on terrorism through sheer commitment and sacrifices rendered by its people, military and law enforcement personnel. The foreign minister stated this while talking to a four-member delegation of the European Parliament, which called on him here. The delegation, led by MEP Peter Van Dalen of the Netherlands, represents the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (ECR), which is the third largest political group in the European Parliament. Welcoming the delegation, the foreign minister expressed satisfaction at the broad-based relationship between Pakistan and the European Union and expressed gratitude

to the European Parliament for its continued support, especially on the GSP Plus Scheme. He stressed upon the need to further strengthen parliamentary exchanges between the two sides. The foreign minister briefed the delegation on the improved economic and security situation in the country. Acknowledging Pakistan's contribution towards establishing peace and security in the region, the MEPs expressed keen desire to work closely with Pakistan for the mutual benefit of the two sides. The MEPs briefed the foreign minister on the priorities of the European Conservatives and Reformists Group. Views were also exchanged on issues of importance, including democracy, human rights and interfaith harmony. (Monitoring Desk)

Rouhani Urges Saudis to End Hostilities, Befriend Iran Instead of US

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has called on Saudi Arabia to cease its hostile policies against Tehran, warning against the ramifications of putting trust in the US and Israel. Speaking at his cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Rouhani reaffirmed Iran's support for the development of regional countries, including Saudi Arabia and said, "There is no way other than brotherhood, friendship and helping each other." "You are mistaken if you think Iran is not your friend, but the US and Israel are. This mentality is a strategic mistake and miscalculation," added the Iranian president. "Our

path in the region is to establish and promote stability; we want the geographic borders not to change, nations to decide for themselves, and bombardments and aggression against regional nations to be stopped," he added. The president further reminded the Saudi rulers of Iran's might and influential role in the region, saying, "You are well aware of the power and status of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Those more powerful than you have failed to do anything against the Iranian nation." "The US and its lackeys mobilized all their equipment and power, but they could not do anything," he added. (Presstv)

President of Tajikistan Meets Iranian Foreign Minister

DUSHANBE - Foreign Minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif met with the President of Tajikistan Emomali Rahmon, during his official visit to Tajikistan, the press service of the Tajik president said in a message. The officials discussed the priority issues, including the implementation of previously reached agreements, as well as the development of cooperation in trade, investment, energy, transport, agriculture

and industry fields. In this context, the sides stressed the importance of the forthcoming meeting of the joint intergovernmental commission on trade, economic and cultural cooperation, which will be held in Dushanbe in the coming days. The sides exchanged views on issues of regional security, combating terrorism and extremism and cooperation within regional and international organizations. (Trend)