

# Xi, Putin Pledge to Enhance Regional, Int'l Cooperation

DA NANG, Vietnam - Chinese President Xi Jinping met here Friday with his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, on further strengthening bilateral ties and cooperation on regional and international affairs.

The pair met on the sidelines of the 25th Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting held in Vietnam's Da Nang city. Recalling his multiple meetings with Putin, Xi said their efforts in guiding a steady and long-term growth of China-Russia ties at a high level have achieved gratifying results. Noting that China and Russia have firmly supported each other in safeguarding



their core national interests, and further strengthened political mutual trust, Xi said the two countries are strategic partners that have truly placed trust in each other.

The Chinese president said the China-Russia comprehensive strategic partnership of coordination has set a good example for a new type of international relations that highlights mutual respect, fairness, justice, and win-win cooperation.

Putin extended congratulations on the successful conclusion of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China, and pledged to always make the development of Russia-China partnership a priority of Russia. (Xinhua)

## Exact Moment Set as Britain, EU Will Part Company

LONDON - Prime Minister Theresa May set the exact moment Friday when Britain will finally leave the European Union after more than 40 years of membership. May's government has tabled a measure in the British parliament which formally commits Britain to leaving the European Union at 11 p.m. on March 29, 2019. In Brussels, the time at that precise moment will be midnight.

In a hard-hitting message published in London's Daily Telegraph newspaper, May warns pro-Eu-

ropean Tory rebels that she will not tolerate any attempts to undermine Brexit.

Ahead of a crucial debate and vote in the House of Commons next week on the so-called Brexit Bill, the government has tabled an amendment which formally commits Britain to a precise time it will leave the EU. The Telegraph says the amendment will effectively force pro-European MPs to publicly declare if they oppose leaving the European Union in March 2019. (Xinhua)

## Putin and Trump Talk Syria, Election Meddling at Brief Meeting

DANANG, Vietnam - U.S. President Donald Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin agreed a statement on Syria during a brief meeting at a summit in Vietnam on Saturday and Putin again dismissed allegations of meddling in last year's U.S. election.

It was their first encounter since July and came at a time that U.S.-Russia relations have been battered and Trump is haunted by the accusations that Putin influenced the election that brought him to the White House.

Trump said their agreement to support a political solution to Syria's conflict would save "tremendous numbers of lives".

"We did it very quickly," Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One after leaving the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit in the resort of Danang for Hanoi, Vietnam's capital. "We seem to have a very good feeling



for each other, a good relationship considering we don't know each other well." Talking after their meet-

ing, Putin described Trump as "a well-mannered person and comfortable to deal with". (Reuters)

## Terrorism, Security and Free Trade Top Agenda in Manila



MANILA - Leaders from Asia and the Pacific will converge in Manila next week to discuss measures to help counter the threat posed by terrorists who intend to make the region their safe haven, South-

east Asian diplomats have said.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose country holds the rotating year-long chairmanship of ASEAN, will play host to fellow leaders of the 10

member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the leaders of its dialogue partners.

CALL FOR EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM The leaders will warn of the dangers of pro-IS fighters and the increasing prevalence of cross-border terrorism, ASEAN diplomats have told Xinhua. The diplomats, who declined to be named, said the leaders will stress the need to address the spread of extremist ideologies in the region to prevent terrorist groups from regen-

erating in new forms and to keep pressure on these terrorist groups which continue to carry out devastating attacks that may harm the region's peace and stability.

The ASEAN leaders will issue a Manila Declaration to Counter the Rise of Radicalization and Violent Extremism at the end of their meeting. Likewise, the East Asia Summit (EAS) will issue the EAS Leaders' Statement of Preventing and Countering the Spread of Terrorist Ideology at the end of their meeting. (Xinhua)

## Anti-Trump Group Says Most of US Economy Backs Paris Climate Pact

BONN, Germany - U.S. cities, states and businesses accounting for more than half the country's economy remain committed to the 2015 Paris climate accord despite President Donald Trump's plan to pull out, an anti-Trump alliance said on Saturday.

The "America's Pledge" report, presented on the sidelines of 200-nation talks on global warming in Bonn, Germany, said non-federal U.S. backers of the Paris pact accounted for \$10.1 trillion or 54 percent of U.S. 2016 gross

domestic product.

"The group ... represents a bigger economy than any nation outside the U.S. and China," said former New York mayor Michael Bloomberg, a leading opponent of Trump's decision in June to withdraw from the agreement and to promote U.S. coal and oil. No other nation has followed Trump's lead. Several hundred people attended the launch of the report in a huge tent pavilion outside the main venue to try to persuade other nations "we are still in" despite Trump. (Reuters)

## US, S. Korea Start Drills in Show of Force Against N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea - The United States and South Korea on Saturday started joint naval exercises that will involve three U.S. aircraft carriers in what military officials describe as a clear warning to North Korea. The four-day drills that began in waters off South Korea's eastern coast come as President Donald Trump continues a visit to Asia that has been dominated by discussions over the North Korean nuclear threat. The battle groups of the USS Ronald Reagan, the Theodore Roosevelt and the Nimitz will successively enter the exercise area during the drills that run until Tuesday, South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said. The three carriers will be likely together in the drills around Monday, according to a South Korean military official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules. (AP)

## Erdogan, Putin to Meet in Russia's Sochi on Nov. 13: Turkish Presidency

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan will meet with his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin in Russia's coastal city of Sochi next Monday, Nov. 13, the Turkish presidency said on Friday.

Two leaders are expected to exchange views on bilateral relations and regional and international developments, particularly Syria, the presidency said in a statement on its website. The last meeting between Erdogan and Putin was on Sept. 28 in Turkey's capital Ankara with talks on Iraq and Syria issues. Both presidents frequently talk by phone, with the latest one on Oct. 29 during which they discussed bilateral relations including energy cooperation and efforts to find a political solution in Syria. (Xinhua)

## APEC 2017 Committed to Supporting Regional Prosperity

DA NANG, Vietnam - The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Economic Leaders' Meeting of 2017 wrapped up here on Saturday, pledging to create new dynamism and foster a shared future for the Asia Pacific region. At a press conference after the meeting, Vietnamese President Tran Dai Quang said that the economic leaders had reached agreements on a range of key issues, including promoting innovative and inclusive growth, creating new drivers for regional eco-



nom integration and enhancing food security, so as to foster a shared future. The regional and global landscapes have experienced complex and fundamental shifts, coupled with the emergence of far-reaching challenges and opportunities, said

the Da Nang Declaration from the meeting. "We, therefore, recommit to our common purpose - to foster a shared future of a peaceful, stable, dynamic, inter-connected and prosperous Asia-Pacific community," the declaration said. (Xinhua)

## EU Chief Tusk Joins Polish Independence Day Celebrations

WARSAW, Poland - Flags fluttered across Poland on Saturday as the nation celebrated Independence Day, which marks the country's regaining of its sovereignty at the end of World War I after being wiped off the map for more than a century.

Donald Tusk, the European Council president and former prime minister of Poland, joined celebrations in his homeland, and television news presenters wore white and red pins - the colors of the national flag - to mark the nation's rebirth in 1918. President Andrzej Duda oversaw cer-

emonies at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, walking past a military guard before the raising of the flags and cannon salutes. After delivering a speech he took part in a wreath-laying ceremony, praying and crossing himself at the monument to all unknown soldiers killed fighting for the country.

Tusk, who attended at Duda's invitation, also paid his respects at the monument. Poland regained nationhood as part of the international settlement that ended WWI, after 123 years of partition by the Russian Empire, Prussia and the Habsburg Empire. (AP)

## Saudi Arabia is the Cradle of Terrorism: Iran

TEHRAN - Iran says Saudi Arabia, "the cradle of terrorism," has been attempting to distort facts into their exact opposite version by accusing Iran of sponsoring terror and meddling in the affairs of regional countries.

Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi made the remarks on Saturday in reaction to earlier comments by Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir made to American television channel CNBC.

In that interview, Jubeir accused Iran of being behind a recent missile attack on Saudi Arabia from neighboring Yemen. That missile was fired by Yemen's Houthi Ansarullah movement, which has been defying the impoverished country against a deadly Saudi-led invasion since March 2015.

"We would like to see sanctions on Iran for its support of terrorism and sanctions on Iran for violating the ballistic missile resolutions of the United Nations," Jubeir said on Thursday.

Qassemi described the Saudi official's comments as "cheap."

"The Saudis have taken the blame game to its highest level," he said, adding that Jubeir was attempting to distract attention away from Saudi Arabia's "destabilizing activities" in the region by distorting facts.

"While Saudi Arabia itself is the cradle of extremist ideology and the incarnation of terrorism and flagrant interference in the affairs of other regional countries, it deceptively accuses others of supporting terror," Qassemi said.

That tactic, he said, has been tried and has failed. (Presstv)

## Neighbor News

### Chinese President Calls for Cooperation Between APEC,

DA NANG, Vietnam - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Friday called for closer cooperation between the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

With APEC being the most influential platform for economic cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region and ASEAN being an organization of regional integration with greatest vitality and potential, the two mechanisms will enjoy a bright future for cooperation, Xi said at an informal dialogue between leaders from both sides, pointing out the shared notion and principles between the two mechanisms.

Xi proposed the two sides work together to advance regional economic integration. He said both sides should

make joint efforts to build an open economy in Asia and the Pacific as well as a framework of regional cooperation featuring equal consultation, common participation and all-win results with a view to a free-trade area of the Asia-Pacific.

Xi said China stands ready to work with ASEAN in pursuit of an early conclusion of the Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations, reiterating China's stance that ASEAN should play a core role in the negotiations. APEC and ASEAN should work as twin engines, taking more effective measures in areas such as infrastructure, policy and regulations, and facilitation for travelling to build up a network of interconnectivity in a wider and deeper way, Xi said. (Xinhua)

### Quality Education for Youth Must for Nation Building: Abbasi

MANSEHRA - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Saturday said quality education of youth was the most important element of the nation building and emphasized on the students to work very hard for attaining success and to maintain a healthy balance between academic and extra-curricular activities.

The prime minister was addressing a gathering of parents and teachers at the annual day function of Kaghan Memorial Trust School as a chief guest. The prime minister said that they should, among other things, particularly focus on building the good character of

the children. He also credited the institute for providing quality education in the area.

Special Assistant to PM Dr. Musadik Malik, on the occasion, said that he was impressed by the confidence of the children who presented tableaux to highlight different important social issues.

He further said the country's bright future was in the hands of its youth who were responsible and cognizant of the challenges.

Later, the prime minister distributed prizes among students who achieved positions in academics and sports activities. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran Urges Formation of Regional, Int'l Anti-Terrorism Coalition

TEHRAN - Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Hossein Jaber Ansari blasted instrumental use of terrorism as the root cause for growing extremism in the world, and asked for the formation of a regional or global coalition to fight against the terrorist groups.

"One of the reasons of the increasing wave of extremism in the region and the world is the deliberate policy and strategic mistake of certain regional and international actors that are using terrorism and extremism as a tool to attain certain political objectives," Jaber Ansari said on Saturday. He expressed regret that

certain Arab countries and world powers have been making an instrumental use of terrorism in Syria, and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has condemned the policy of using the terrorists as a tool since the start of the crisis in Syria and considers it as a failed policy."

The senior diplomat called for the start of a regional or international coalition against terrorism. In relevant remarks in 2016, Jaber Ansari had warned the sponsors of terrorist groups, which use them as a tool to attain their goals, that their policy will backfire in future. (FNA)

### Iran, Uzbekistan Discuss Expanding Bilateral Ties

TASHKENT - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Uzbek counterpart Abdulaziz Kamilov in a meeting in Samarkand underlined the need for broadening bilateral ties, and called for settling the regional crises.

During the meeting in the Uzbek city, Zarif and Kamilov explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation in different fields. The two sides also held talks on removing customs barriers, establishing cooperation in banking, trade, transit, scientific, technology fields and also in trilateral cooperation in railway transportation field.

The Iranian and Uzbek

foreign ministers also agreed on drawing a road map to develop relations, specially in economic fields.

The importance of maintaining cooperation in fighting extremist groups was among the topics discussed by the foreign ministers of Iran and Uzbekistan.

In relevant remarks on Friday, Zarif and Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev in a meeting in Samarkand underlined the need for broadening bilateral relations in all areas.

During the meeting in the Uzbek city, Zarif and Mirziyoyev explored avenues for bolstering and reinvigorating mutual cooperation. (FNA)