

## World Leaders Arrive in Paris to Commemorate Centenary of the End of WWI

PARIS - Dozens of world leaders have arrived in France on the invitation of French President Macron to join commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI.

Multiple heads of states, including Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, Hungary's Victor Orban and Andrej Babis of the Czech Republic, were greeted by Macron alongside other officials at the Elysee Palace as they continued to arrive in the French capital on Sunday. US President Donald Trump, Germany's Chancellor Angela Merkel came on the eve of the main ceremony, which is to take place at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier under the Arc de Triomphe.



The world marks the Armistice Day on November 11 commemorating the end of the four-year war. It is believed that this year's centenary is to bring together a record number of world leaders. (Russia Today)

### Israeli Leader Criticized for Money Transfer to Gaza

JERUSALEM - Israel's prime minister on Sunday defended his decision to allow the transfer of \$15 million from Qatar to Gaza's Hamas rulers, rejecting criticism that the move had strengthened the Islamic militant group. Benjamin Netanyahu told reporters that it was "the right step" at the moment, and that he was committed to restoring quiet along the Israel-Gaza frontier and preventing a humanitarian crisis in the coastal Palestinian territory. "Every action, without exception, has a price,"

he said. "If you can't handle the price you cannot lead. And I can handle the price." Israeli critics, including members of his hard-line coalition, accused Netanyahu of capitulating to violence and of granting relief to the embattled Hamas group. The internationally backed Palestinian president, whose forces lost control of Gaza to Hamas in 2007, angrily accused the U.S. and Israel of being involved in a "conspiracy" to permanently sever Gaza from the West Bank. (AP)

### Thumbs Up! Putin Shakes Hands with Trump and Melania During WWI Ceremony in Paris

PARIS - Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump greeted one another during the World War I centenary commemorations in Paris, with the two leaders seen shaking hands and making other warm gestures during the event. Although both leaders were late to the ceremony, they appeared to be happy to see each other upon their arrival. Putin and Trump were seen nodding at each other, with the Russian leader even tapping his

US counterpart on the shoulder and offering up a thumbs up sign. Putin also greeted the US First Lady Melania Trump with a warm handshake. Dozens of world leaders have come to France to participate in commemorative events marking the 100th anniversary of the end of WWI. With the US continuing to aggressively target Russia with sanctions, encounters between the two leaders have become headline-grab-



bing news. Adding to this is the so-called 'Russiagate' probe that was launched in May 2017 to investigate Trump's alleged Kremlin ties - an idea pushed by the Democratic Party - which has yet to produce any evidence. In July, Trump and Putin held a summit in Helsinki, Finland, causing much controversy in the US. (Russia Today)

### ASEAN-China Ties Deepened, Cooperation Mutually Beneficial, Says Secretary-General



JAKARTA - The relations between the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China have been expanded and deepened, and

cooperation between the two sides has been mutually beneficial, ASEAN Secretary-General Lim Jock Hoi has said. The relations have ex-

panded and deepened to cover a wide range of cooperation areas of mutual benefits since the launch of the ASEAN-China strategic partnership in 2003, Lim said in a written interview with Xinhua ahead of the 33rd summit of ASEAN and related meetings, held in Singapore from Nov. 11 to 15. "Both ASEAN and China are important players in preserving regional peace, stability and prosperity. These are the basis that underlies the political determination

of both sides to further strengthen the partnership and enhance the mutually beneficial cooperation." The two sides have strengthened dialogue and cooperation on political-security issues of common interests and concerns that contributes to the well-being and stability of the region, Lim said. China has remained ASEAN's largest trading partner since 2009, accounting for 17.1 percent of ASEAN's total trade in 2017, Lim noted. (Xinhua)

### Calls for Open Trade to Greet Pence as Trump Skips Asia Summit

SINGAPORE - Asia-Pacific leaders will join the heads of Southeast Asian states this week in Singapore to renew calls for multilateralism and fresh pledges to resolve regional conflicts ranging from the Rohingya crisis in Myanmar to tensions in the South China Sea. Notably absent when regional powers such as China, Japan and India seek to enlist support for a multilateral trading system will be U.S. President Donald Trump, whose decision to skip

the Asia summit has raised questions about his commitment to a regional strategy aimed at checking China's rise. Vice President Mike Pence will attend instead of Trump, and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang, Russian President Vladimir Putin, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are among those expected to join leaders from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). (Reuters)

### British PM Cannot Expect Labour to Save Her Brexit Vote: Thornberry

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May cannot expect the opposition Labour Party to save her in a parliamentary vote on any Brexit deal, Emily Thornberry, Labour's foreign affairs policy chief, said on Sunday. "What we've said is that you cannot simply come to the House of Commons with a bit of nonsense ... you cannot expect the Labour Party to save you from your own backbenchers," Thornberry told the BBC's Andrew Marr Show, saying Labour would vote against any deal that did not meet its tests. (Reuters)

### Ukrainian Participants Hail CIIE as Important Platform to Connect Business

KIEV - The first China International Import Expo (CIIE) in Shanghai is an important platform to link Ukrainian entrepreneurs with Chinese partners to the benefits of both sides, Ukrainian business and non-governmental organization leaders have said. At the CIIE, "we received a large number of requests and proposals for the supply of our products," Vadym Lubianko, head of a Kiev-based plant Impuls that participated in the expo, told Xinhua. The expo, which concluded Saturday, provides a unique chance for the Ukrainian state-run plant, which produces spare parts of prostheses, to enter the Chinese market, said Lubianko, adding that "the expo provided an opportunity to approach the rapidly developing Chinese market and present our products on this market." (Xinhua)

### Former Coup Leaders Seen as Top Contenders in Fiji General Election

SYDNEY - Two former coup leaders are seen as the leading contenders in Fiji's general election on Wednesday, the second to be held since 2006 when then-commander of the armed forces Frank Bainimarama seized power. The former British colony of more than 300 Pacific islands, with a population of about 910,000, was suspended from the British Commonwealth and isolated diplomatically after the bloodless coup. Bainimarama stood down from the military to run as a civilian in the country's 2014 elections, winning in a landslide, and the country has



been welcomed back to the international community, enjoying a visit in October from Britain's Prince Harry and his wife Meghan. Former prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka, who himself led two coups in 1987, is the main opposition candidate. Rabuka, who leads the

Social Democratic Liberal Party of Fiji, known as Sodelpa, which is running on a platform of government transparency, will not know until Monday afternoon whether he is eligible to be elected after being accused of deliberately breaching financial disclosure laws. (Reuters)

### Netanyahu Says Unaware of Corruption Linked to Submarine Deal

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said he was unaware of any corruption linked to a deal to buy German submarines, after police recommended charging his lawyer in the investigation. "As you know, there are no claims as to my involvement," Netanyahu said late Saturday in his first comments on the issue since police issued their

findings in the long-running investigation last week. "Which is not a minute thing since people don't hesitate to blame me with the most absurd claims." Asked about the alleged offences committed by his relative and family lawyer David Shimron, Netanyahu said: "You know I didn't know." (AFP)

### Chinese Pharmaceutical Companies Boost Exports to U.S.

LOS ANGELES - Chinese pharmaceutical companies boosted their exports to the United States at an exhibition in Las Vegas on Thursday and Friday, with an actual transaction of more than 2.3 million dollars. It was the second edition of China Pharmaceutical Ingredients Brand Pavilion, which selected 63 elite enterprises from 20 provinces of China, with a net exhibit area of about 800 square meters. The Chinese pavilion was staged at Suppliside West, one of the top conventions in the international healthcare ingredients industry, which gathered more than 1,600 exhibiting companies from all over the world. According to China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products, during the two-day event, Chinese exhibitors received more than 3,000 professional customers. Around 80 percent of those customers are American buyers. According to incomplete statistics, the amount of intentional transactions reached by Chinese exhibitors was over 6.6 million U.S. dollars, and the actual transaction amount was about over 2.3 million dollars. Wang Maochun, vice president of China Chamber of Commerce for Import and Export of Medicines and Health Products, noted that Chinese medicine has received special attention and recognition from the international healthcare market in recent years. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Tajikistan Keen in Promoting Trade with Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - Tajikistan was keen to promote bilateral trade with Pakistan as both countries have huge potential to enhance trade, joint ventures and investment in multiple fields. This was said by Sherali S. Jononov, ambassador of Tajikistan while addressing business community at Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry. He urged that Pakistani business community should become more proactive to promote business relations with Tajik counterparts as both countries have great potential for mutual cooperation. He said that Pakistan could export many products to Tajikistan including sugar, tex-

tiles, cement, sports goods, surgical instruments, pharmaceuticals and leather products and stressed that Pakistani exporters should step up efforts to exploit these business opportunities. He said in 2013, Pakistani cement companies were enjoying 60 percent market in Tajikistan and Pakistani cement manufacturers were invited to put up cement plants in Tajikistan, but due to their lack of interest, Chinese companies have now captured the market in his country. He said Tajikistan would soon start direct flights from Dushanbe to Lahore that would facilitate promotion of bilateral trade and people to people contacts. (Agencies)

### Pakistan Boosts Its Contribution to UN Agency Assisting Palestinian Refugees

NEW YORK - Permanent Representative of Pakistan to the United Nations (UN) Maleeha Lodhi on Sunday said Pakistan has made an enhanced contribution to the cash-strapped United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). UNRWA is entrusted to assist more than five million registered Palestinian refugees in the war-ravaged state. "The people of Pakistan have always stood with their Palestinian brothers and sisters," the Pakistani envoy to UN said. Ambassador Lodhi added that Islamabad's contribution to the cause was being increased on the instructions of the government of Pakistan,

and in accordance with the wishes and aspirations of the people of Pakistan. She further said, "This assistance will help UNRWA continue its relief efforts on the ground and keep the schools and clinics open that it runs in Palestinian refugee camps." In a video message, the UNRWA's Commissioner-General Pierre Krahenbuhl appreciated Pakistan's support for the Palestinian refugees. In September this year, the United States cut aid to the Palestinians for programmes supporting conflict resolution with Israelis, affecting more than five million people who rely on its schools, healthcare, and social services. (Pakistan Today)

### Turkmenistan Considering Statelessness Issues

ASHGABAT - A delegation of the Turkmen State Migration Service took part in a workshop organized by the OSCE and the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the local migration service said. The event, which was held in Vienna, was devoted to the exchange of best practice in the field of statelessness among OSCE participating countries. As a permanent member of the executive committee of the UNHCR program, Turkmenistan is an active supporter of the consolidation of international

efforts in the field of ensuring and protecting the rights of refugees and stateless people. This year 735 people have received citizenship of Turkmenistan. From 2011 to 2017, 8,145 people obtained citizenship of Turkmenistan. Turkmenistan joined the UN main international legal documents, including the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and its protocol, the United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons and the Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness. (Trend)

### Brazil Will Stand with Iran in Face of US Sanctions: Ex-President

TEHRAN - Former President Fernando Collor de Mello says Brazil will stand with Iran like other member states of BRICS, the association of five major emerging economies, in the face of US sanctions. Collor de Mello, currently the head of the Committee of Foreign Affairs and National Defense at Brazil's Federal Senate, made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani in Tehran late Saturday. The senator stressed that Brazil like other BRICS members - namely Russia, India, China and South Africa - stands by Iran

and seeks to develop bilateral relations in the fields of economy and trade. The former Brazilian president also called for the enhancement of parliamentary ties between Tehran and Brasilia. Collor de Mello further said the international community and the UN should not remain silent while measures taken by US President Donald Trump imperil global relations. He touched on fresh US sanctions on Latin American countries, including Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, saying those measures will never resolve problems. (Press TV)