

China Tells US to Stop Criticism, Says Relations Suffering

BEIJING — Chinese officials appealed to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on Monday to repair relations they said have been damaged by U.S. tariff hikes and support for Taiwan, as their governments press North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons.

Pompeo said at the start of his talks with Foreign Minister Wang Yi that Washington has a "fundamental disagreement" and "great concerns" about Chinese actions and looked forward to discussing them. Reporters were then ushered from the room. The polite but edgy tone underscored the plunge in U.S.-Chinese relations as the administration of President Donald Trump confronts Beijing over its technology policies and territorial claims in the South China



Sea. Trump also approved a weapons sale to Taiwan, the self-ruled island the Communist mainland claims as its own territory, and sanc-

tioned a Chinese company and its leader over an arms purchase from Russia. Those developments came as the countries have raised tariffs

on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in a dispute over U.S. complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. At the same time, the United States and China are cooperating on efforts to pressure North Korean leader Kim Jong Un to give up his country's nuclear weapons and long-range missile programs. Pompeo met Wang and Yang Jiechi, a senior Cabinet official and former foreign minister, after talks Sunday with Kim in North Korea's capital, Pyongyang. Pompeo also visited Japan and South Korea, where he said Monday in Seoul that there had been "significant progress" toward an agreement for the North to give up its nuclear weapons. (AP)

Economics of Climate Change, Innovation Win Nobel Prize for U.S. Duo

STOCKHOLM - Americans William Nordhaus and Paul Romer, pioneers in adapting the western economic growth model to focus on environmental issues and sharing the benefits of technology, won the 2018 Nobel Economics Prize on Monday. In a joint award that turned the spotlight on a rapidly shifting global debate over the impact of climate change, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences said the duo's work was helping to answer basic questions over how to promote long-term, sustainable

prosperity. Romer, of New York University's Stern School of Business and best known for his work on endogenous growth - a theory rooted in investing in knowledge and human capital - said he had been taken by surprise by the award, but offered a positive message. "I think one of the problems with the current situation is that many people think that protecting (the) environment will be so costly and so hard that they just want to ignore them," he told a news conference via telephone. (Reuters)

THE HAGUE, Netherlands — The U.S. on Monday urged the United Nations' highest court to toss out a case filed by Iran that seeks to recover around \$2 billion worth of frozen assets the U.S. Supreme Court awarded to victims of a 1983 bombing in Lebanon and other attacks linked to Iran. The case at the International Court of Justice is based on a bilateral treaty that the Trump administration terminated last week. Despite that, the United States sent a large legal delegation to the court's headquarters

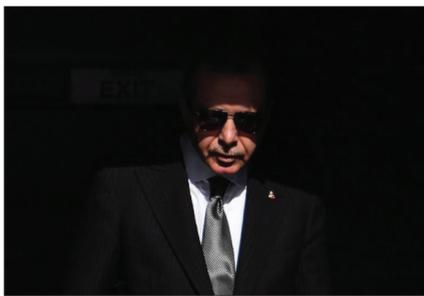
in The Hague to present their objections to the case, which Tehran filed in 2016. U.S. State Department lawyer Richard Visek told the 15-judge panel that U.S. objections to the court's jurisdiction and admissibility "provide a clear basis for ruling that this case should not proceed to the merits." Visek said the case is based on "malicious conduct" by Iran, a country Washington has long classified as a state sponsor of terrorism around the world. Iran denies that charge. "At the outset we should be clear as to what this case



is about," Visek said. "The actions at the root of this case center on Iran's support for international terrorism and its complaints about the U.S. legal frame-

work that allows victims of that terrorism to hold Iran accountable to judicial proceedings and receive compensation for their tragic losses." (AP)

After Tense Germany Trip, Erdogan Set for Warm Reception in Hungary



BUDAPEST - Less than two weeks after a trip to Germany marked by strained relations, Turkish President Recep Tayyip is set for a warmer welcome

when he visits Prime Minister Viktor Orban in Budapest on Monday. The Hungarian leader was one of the first to congratulate Erdogan on

his re-election in July and one of the few European officials to attend the inauguration ceremony in Ankara. A fierce critic of what he sees as an undemocratic Europe, Orban has repeatedly hailed the "stability" that he perceives the Turkish regime offers.

"It's nice for him to visit an EU country where he isn't under fire for his record on human rights and democracy," said Tamas Szigetvari, economics professor at Peter Pazmany University in Budapest. The trip will also allow Erdogan to show his critics that "no, the EU hasn't completely turned its back on Turkey," the expert told AFP.

Ankara needs the EU as relations with the US deteriorate and the Turkish economy, very dependent on trade with Europe, is in difficulty. (AFP)

Global Stocks Weighed Down by China Economy Fears

LONDON — Global stock markets fell Monday as investors responded to the weekend decision from the Chinese monetary authorities to reduce the amount of capital that banks are required to hold, a move that stoked concerns that the world's number 2 economy is struggling in the face of the tariff dispute with the U.S. KEEPING SCORE: In Europe, Germany's DAX was down 0.9 percent at 12,000 while the CAC 40 in France fell 0.9 percent, too, to 5,310. The FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was 0.6 percent

lower at 7,272. U.S. stocks were poised to open lower too with Dow futures and the broader S&P 500 futures down 0.3 percent. Trading on Wall Street is expected to be light as the federal government, bond markets and much of the country observe Columbus Day. However, light liquidity levels have the potential to accentuate moves one way or the other. CHINA RATE CUT: Beijing injected money into its cooling economy by reducing the level of reserves banks are required to hold. (AP)

Lavrov Says Russians Accused of Spying in Netherlands were on 'Routine' Trip

MOSCOW - Russia's foreign minister said on Monday that four Russians detained and expelled by the Netherlands in April on suspicion of spying had been on a "routine" trip, adding that Moscow did not receive a Dutch complaint at the time of the incident. Dutch authorities said last week they had disrupted an attempt in April by Russian intelligence agents to hack the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov was speaking at a joint news conference after talks with his Italian counterpart in Moscow. (Reuters)

Confirmed Deaths Near 2,000, Still More Likely in Indonesia

PALU, Indonesia — The death toll from the devastating earthquake and tsunami on Indonesia's Sulawesi island neared 2,000 on Monday, but thousands more are believed unaccounted for and officials said search teams plan to stop looking for victims later this week. The official toll hit 1,948, mostly in the hard-hit city of Palu, said Jamaluddin, an official from the disaster task force who uses one name. He corrected the number during a news conference in Jakarta after initially saying it was 1,944. He said a navy ship had docked in the area and opened a field hospital. Willem Rampangilei, head of the National Board for Disaster Management, said there could be as many as 5,000 victims still buried in deep mud in Balaroa and Petobo, two of Palu's hardest-hit neighborhoods. (AP)

Kremlin Is Working on Plans to Host Kim Jong Un in Russia

MOSCOW — The Kremlin says it is working on plans to host North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Moscow. Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, said Monday that Putin extended an invitation to Kim last month to visit Russia, and that Moscow is working on the details of where and when that meeting could happen. Peskov's comments follow a visit to North Korea by U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo to discuss the country's nuclear disarmament



and setting up another meeting between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump. North Korea entered talks with the U.S. and South Korea earlier this year, saying it's willing

to negotiate away its advancing nuclear arsenal. Nuclear diplomacy later stalled because of suspicions over how sincere North Korea is about its disarmament pledge. (AP)

No Divorce without Precise Future Framework: Spokesman for UK's May

LONDON - Britain cannot agree a withdrawal deal with the European Union without securing a precise framework for their future relationship, a spokesman for Prime Minister Theresa May said on Monday. "There can be no withdrawal agreement without a precise future framework," he told reporters. Britain and the EU will resume talks this week on the detail of Britain's withdrawal from the bloc and on its

future relationship. EU leaders will meet next week to try to conclude a deal but any final agreement may have to wait until a special meeting in November. After more positive comments from the EU over the Brexit negotiations, the spokesman said there was a difference between optimistic talk about a deal being done and getting an agreement, again calling on the bloc to move its position. (Reuters)

Spain Rules 'Stolen Baby' Doctor Guilty but He Cannot be Punished

MADRID - A Spanish doctor accused of stealing and selling a baby during the dictatorship is guilty of all charges but cannot be punished due to the statute of limitations, a Madrid court said on Monday. The court said 85-year-old Spanish gynecologist Eduardo Vela was responsible for the abduction of a child, faking a birth and falsifying official documents but was absolved after the baby reached adulthood in 1987. The lawyer of the woman at the center of the case, Ines Madrigal, told reporters outside the court they would appeal against the decision. The statute of limitations imposes deadlines on courts to complete legal proceedings. Madrigal, who was told by her mother at 18 that she was adopted, accused Vela of forging her 1969 birth certificate to show her adoptive mother, now dead, as her biological parent. Vela, who had denied the charges, was the first person prosecuted over the "stolen babies" scandal that affected thousands during General Francisco Franco's rule. Many of the cases date back to the right-wing dictatorship of 1939-75 when campaigners say officials took babies from "unsuitable" mothers - often communist or leftists - and gave them to families with connections to the regime. A decade ago, a Spanish judge recorded the cases of about 30,000 Spanish children taken at birth during Franco's rule. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Iran Says EU Renews Call for Opening Office in Tehran

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian lawmaker said on Monday that the European Union renewed the call for opening an office in Iran's capital Tehran, Tasnim news agency reported. The call was first made by an Austrian envoy during a recent meeting of 26 ambassadors from European countries hosted by the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Commission, Tasnim cited the commission chairman Heshamtollah Falahatpisheh as saying. Austria currently holds the EU rotating presidency. A number of other am-

bassadors echoed the need for the EU to establish an office in Iran, Falahatpisheh added. However, Iran's foreign ministry played down the expectations, saying "no precise and comprehensive view" was reached, the report said. The EU had proposed opening an office in Iran a couple of years ago, according to Tasnim. In November 2017, Iranian First Vice-President Eshaq Jahangiri said the establishment of an EU office in Tehran could facilitate the implementation of bilateral agreements. (Xinhua)

FATF Team Arrives in Pakistan to Review Measures Taken against Terror Financing

ISLAMABAD - A nine-member delegation, comprising members of the Financial Action Task Force's (FATF) Asia-Pacific Group, has arrived here to review the measures taken by the government to curb money laundering and monetary assistance of terrorists, local media reported on Monday. According to media, the delegation will meet with officials from finance, interior, foreign and law ministries during a 12-day visit. The officials of Asia-Pacific group are also expected to hold meetings with the Securities and Exchange Commission of Pakistan, National Counter-Terrorism Authority, Federal Investigation Agency, Federal Board of Revenue, National Accountability

Bureau, Anti-Narcotics Force, Financial Monitoring Unit and the State Bank of Pakistan, according to local TV channel ARY News. Officials from the Pakistani finance ministry has said that the government has done its homework and the visiting delegation will be briefed regarding the administrative and legal steps government has taken to stop terror financing through money laundering and illegal remittances. The implementation of a 10-point action plan will also be reviewed during the meetings. Earlier, Pakistan and FATF negotiated a 10-point action plan to be implemented by Sept. 2019 to get out of the grey list. Earlier in June, the

Turkmenistan Appoints New Head to Major Agriculture Bank

ASHGABAT - Myratniyaz Berdyev, who previously held the position of deputy chairman of the Board of the Dayhanbank State Commercial Bank of Turkmenistan, has been appointed its chairman, reads the Turkmen presidential decree. By another decree, Muhammet Nepevov was released from temporary duties of the head of the bank. The bank is focused on financing the agro-industrial complex, and provides loans for investment projects in

industry, construction and other areas. Turkmenistan is in a transitional stage of its development. In recent years, for the first time, an article appeared in Constitution on the transition to market relations. The Caspian country has already carried out several reforms in monetary policy: the denomination of the national currency, the unification of exchange rates, and in 2014 the country switched to international accounting standards. (Trend)

Prices for Building Materials in Uzbekistan Soar

TASHKENT - According to the data of the State Committee on Statistics of Uzbekistan, the price for brick has gone within 9 months by 48.4 percent, for cement - by 24.7 percent, for wall-paper - by 16.3 percent, for slate - by 14.3 percent compared to last year, "Uzbekistan News" reported. While, the non-food products (clothing, shoes, fabrics and yarn, household textiles, foodstuffs, medicines, personal care products, tobacco products, fuel for cars), on average, have risen in price by 9.1 percent, the building materials have risen in price by 18.4 percent. Analysts believe the

main reason for the decline in cement production is that the construction industry of the country took an energy "pill" resulting in price increases in 2018. For enterprises in the industry, the tariffs for gas and electricity consumption rose by at least 60 percent. Meanwhile, the ratio of 1.6 to the existing gas and electricity tariffs is applied to the enterprises for the production of burnt brick, asphalt and cement, which have introduced energy-efficient technologies and equipment, as well as to those using alternative fuels (coal), including the dry method of cement production. (Trend)