

## North Korea, US Resume Nuclear Diplomacy with Sweden Talks

HELSINKI — U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo says teams from North Korea and the United States are in Sweden's capital to resume diplomacy on Pyongyang's nuclear program. Pompeo, who was in Greece for the last leg of a European tour, said it's too early to know if talks in Stockholm on Saturday will yield progress but he was hopeful they would. He said: "We came with a set of ideas." North Korea resumed missile tests after a second summit between President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un collapsed in February. Parts of an under-



ter-launched ballistic missile test-fired on Wednesday fell inside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

Swedish news agency TT said North Korea's chief negotiator, Kim Myong Gil, arrived on Thursday and U.S. Special Representative for North Korea Stephen Biegun on Friday. (Ap news)

## Neighbor News

### Iran Welcomes Dialogue with Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN - Iran on Monday announced that it welcomes dialogue with Saudi Arabia to settle mutual issues and talks with regional states to set up a coalition for the security of the region, Trend reports citing Xinhua. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said on Monday that "there has always been a chance to solve these problems (with Saudi Arabia) through dialogue." Iran welcomes any mediatory attempt to calm tensions with Saudi Arabia, Mousavi said, expressing hope that the Saudi side is also "ready" for alleviating tensions. Besides, Iran welcomes the mediatory attempts by the Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi, he said. Abdul Mahdi said on Thursday after his visit to Saudi Arabia that he was optimistic about preventing a regional war. On Sunday, Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud said he would prefer a political and peaceful solution to a military one over conflicts with Iran. (Trend)

### China's High-Tech Manufacturing Industry Sees Rapid Growth in Aug.

BEIJING - China's high-tech manufacturing industry posted rapid growth in August, said official data. The added value of high-tech manufacturing in August went up 6.1 percent year on year, 1.7 percentage points higher than that of all industrial enterprises above designated size, data from the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) showed. In breakdown, the medical equipment and manufacturing

of apparatus and instruments industry climbed 11.8 percent, 3 percentage points higher than the figure recorded in July. Meanwhile, the computer and office equipment manufacturing industry expanded 4.5 percent, 1.2 percentage points higher than the previous month. NBS data also showed a swift growth in high-tech and high value-added new industrial products. 3D printers led ... (More on P4)...(11)

### Australian Vloggers Released from Iranian Jail After Three Months Detention

CANBERRA - The Australian foreign minister said today an Australian-British blogger and her fiancé were released in Iran after three months of detention. Foreign Minister Marise Payne said that the couple, Jolie King and Mark Firkin, were on their way home and in "good health and in good spirits." She said all charges against them had been dropped. «For Jolie and for Mark,

the ordeal they have been through is now over, they are being reunited with their loved ones, which is a source of great relief and joy to everyone.» Payne said. They were held in detention in Tehran for almost three months after being arrested for reportedly flying a drone without a permit. There was no immediate acknowledgment today by Iranian officials or in the country's state media of the couple's release. However,



that has happened in previous cases. University of Melbourne academic Kylie Moore-Gilbert is still imprisoned in Iran after being charged with spying last year. Payne said her case was ... (More on P4)...(7)

### One Hundred Dead, Thousands Injured and Arrested in Baghdad Riots



BAGHDAD - The curfew imposed on the capital in the past two days has been lifted. The influence of Moqtada al-Sadr on the

protests has been felt. A representative of Grand Ayatollah Al Sistani makes an appeal. Baghdad (AsiaNews/Agencies) - About a

hundred people have died, mostly protesters, 4,000 have been injured, and more than 500 have been arrested as a result of four days of protests in Baghdad, Najaf, Missane, Zi Qar, Wassit, Diwaniya, Babylon and Basra. People, mostly young people, have taken to the streets to protest against corruption, unemployment, and poor public services in a country that has been at war for almost 40 years (since Saddam Hussein came to power) and is

### 165 Illegal Migrants Voluntarily Deported from Libya to Nigeria

TRIPOLI - The International Organization for Migration (IOM) said on Friday that 165 illegal migrants have been voluntarily deported from Libya to Nigeria. «Our team yesterday assisted 165 stranded Nigerian migrants in Libya, mostly women and children, to return to their homeland by a charter flight departing from Sebha airport (southern Libya),» the IOM said in a statement. The voluntary return program is carried out

### Highlights of China's Science News

BEIJING -The following are the highlights of China's science news from the past week:  
**NEW HIGH-YIELD SOYBEAN VARIETY**  
China has developed a new variety of high-yield soybean and has tested it in a trial planting area, according to the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS). The new variety of soybean named Henong 71 was planted in the test fields in Shihezi, Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region. It achieved an average yield of 447.47 kg of ... (More on P4)...(13)

### Pompeo Says No Country Can Hold Europe Hostage in Energy Developments

ATHENS - The United States wants to ensure that rules govern exploration of energy sources in the Mediterranean Sea, Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said during a visit to Athens on Saturday, adding that Turkey's illegal drilling in the region is unacceptable. "We want to make sure that rules govern international exploration in the Mediterranean Sea's energy resources and that no country can hold Europe hostage," Pompeo said. "We have told the Turks that illegal drilling is unacceptable and we'll continue to take diplomatic actions to make sure that we do, as we do always, ensure that lawful activity takes place," Pompeo said. "We are working to get the parties, everyone, ... (More on P4)...(14)

### British Gov't Promises Brexit Extension If No Deal Reached

LONDON-- The British government on Friday promised the highest court of Scotland that Prime Minister Boris Johnson will ask the European Union (EU) to extend Britain's membership if no deal is agreed on this month. The case was put before the Court of Session in Scotland by anti-Brexit campaigners seeking a legal order to compel Johnson to ask the EU for an extension in case of a no-deal Brexit. It followed a law passed in the House of Commons, known as the Benn Act, which orders the prime minister to write to the EU for an extension until Jan. 31, 2020 if London and Brussels fail to agree a deal by Oct. 19. The blow in the race to find a solution came after



the European Commission in Brussels said there is no ground to accept a request from Britain for "intensive" weekend negotiations two weeks before an EU summit on Oct. 17. Instead, the Brexit negotiations will resume on Oct. 7. The court undertaking in Scotland came only weeks after Johnson said he would "rather die in a ditch" than ask Brussels to delay, coupled with regular messages that Britain will end its membership of the EU on Oct. 31 with or without a deal. On Friday night he tweeted "new deal or no deal -- but no delay." The legal action against the British government is being brought by Scottish National Party member of parliament and barrister Joanna Cherry, barrister Jolyon Maughan and businessman Vince Dale. Court papers have been flying in the face of Johnson's comments since he succeeded Theresa May as prime minister this ... (More on P4)...(9)

### Erdogan: Turkey to Launch Military Operation in Northeastern Syria

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says the Turkish army will soon launch a military operation east of the Euphrates in Syria. The region is mainly controlled by US-backed Kurdish militia. Turkey will launch an air and ground military operation in Syria in the next two days in a region east of the Euphrates mainly held by US-backed Kurdish militia that Ankara considers terrorists, ... (More on P4)...(10)

### First Plane Built by "Father of Chinese Aviation" Restored, Donated to Museum

BEIJING - Feng Ru 1, the first plane designed and built by the «Father of Chinese Aviation» Feng Ru, has been restored and donated to the China Science and Technology Museum, to mark the 110th anniversary of China's aviation industry. On Sept. 1909, 21, a biplane with four starting wheels tucked beneath took to the skies in Oakland, California, six years after Orville and Wilbur Wright's first flight. It was the first successful Chinese flight with a self-made plane and the nation's first manned and powered flight, said Cai Eryu, general manager of the Culture Center at the Aviation Industry Corporation of China (AVIC). The AVIC organized experts to carry out the restoration work. According to Cai, Feng Ru 1 had a wingspan of 7.62 meters, a length of 7.43 meters and a height of 2.45 meters. In order to help people understand aircraft manufacturing from more than a century ago, a 1:4 scale model was made using the material and production process of the era with the fuselage, wing spar, wing rib and propeller in wood and motor in metal, replicating the aerodynamic design as closely as possible, he said. It is the first time in more than 100 years to successfully restore Feng Ru 1. Improvements will follow in accordance with the latest documentary research, said Cai. As ... (More on P4)...(15)

### Khalilzad Meets Taliban in Islamabad

ISLAMABAD - A Taliban delegation met US Special Representative for Afghanistan Zalmay Khalilzad for more than an hour on Thursday, two sources told Reuters, the first known contact between the sides since US President Donald Trump called off talks last month. Trump halted the talks, which aimed at a plan to withdraw US troops from Afghanistan in exchange for Taliban security guarantees, following the death of a US soldier and 11 others in a Taliban bomb attack in Kabul. The Taliban is ready to stand by a tentative agreement struck in Doha before Trump canceled the talks, according to Pakistan's foreign minister and sources from the militant group, who said the insurgents were eager to resume negotiations. However the meeting in Pakistan's capital Islamabad did not represent a resumption of formal negotiations, official sources cautioned. "The Taliban officials held a meeting with Zalmay Khalilzad ... all I can tell you is that Pakistan played a big role in it to convince them how important it was for the peace process," a senior Pakistan official told Reuters, but declined to be identified as he was not authorized to speak publicly. He added that the meeting, which was confirmed by a second source, did not involve formal negotiations on the peace process, but aimed at building confidence. He declined to elaborate further on the discussions. Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mehmood Qureshi told Reuters that the Taliban were set to meet with Khalilzad during their visits to Islamabad though he was not aware of what ... (More on P4)...(16)

### Deputy Prime Minister for Industry & Communications Appointed in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT, Turkmenistan - Bayramgeldi Ovezov has been appointed Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister for Industry and Communications, Trend reports referring to the Turkmen presidential decree. Ovezov previously served as chairman of Turkmenaragatnasyk (Turkmen Communications) Agency JSC. The Ministry of Industry and Communications of Turkmenistan was formed in February and it supervises the Ministry of Industry, the Ministry of Railway Transport, the Ministry of Road Transport, the Ministry of Communications, the State Service of Maritime and River Transportation and Turkmen Airlines (Turkmenhowayollary). Accordingly, these institutions were renamed as agencies Turkmenenagat (Turkmen Industry), Turkmenemirayollary (Turkmen Railways), Turkmenawtowlaglary (Turkmen Highways), Turkmenaragatnasyk (Turkmen Communications), Turkmenendizeryayollary ... (More on P4)...(17)

### Chinese Tourists Spend 128 Bln USD Overseas in H1: Report

BEIJING - Chinese tourists spent 127.5 billion U.S. dollars overseas in the first half of 2019 (H1), according to a report released by the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE). Asia took the lion's share of Chinese tourists' consumption with 54 percent of the total. The Americas ranked second, accounting for 24 percent, followed by Europe with 13 percent, the report showed. With stronger trade and investment ties with countries along the Belt and Road, Chinese residents are spending more in such emerging markets, according to the report. In the first half of 2019, Chinese residents spent a total of 14.9 billion dollars in Belt and Road countries, SAFE data showed. In terms of payment methods, mobile payment saw its H1 volume double from the same period last year, while bank cards remained the primary form of payment. Shopping has remained a main component of tourist consumption. In H1, Chinese residents' outbound spending on ... (More on P4)...(18)