

May Says She is 'Resilient' Amid Threats to Leadership

LONDON — British Prime Minister Theresa May says she is "resilient" despite a difficult speech at the Conservative Party conference and growing threats to her leadership. She told the Sunday Times she would not hide from a challenge as she fights off a rebellion from some legislators unhappy with her leadership. "The truth is my feelings can be hurt, like everyone else, but I am pretty resilient," she said. Former Prime Minister John Major urged Conservative Party members to support May and scolded those who have plotted against her. "I urge all Conservative (law-makers) to reflect very carefully on what is at stake," he



wrote in the Daily Mail. "The country has had enough of the self-absorbed disloyal behavior we have witnessed for weeks." Major's comments were viewed by some as a warning to Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, who while publicly backing May has twice proposed his own policies on the delicate Brexit negotiations over Britain's future relationship with the European Union. May has endured a difficult stretch, with a disappointing party conference speech followed by a claim by former party chairman Grant Shapps that he had a list of 30 legislators who wanted May to step down. (AP)

Erdogan Bids for Crunch AKP Reform Targeting at 2019 Elections

ANKARA — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan is striving to reshape and renew the ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP) in a bid to prepare for three crucial elections in 2019. "The renovation in our party is a demand from our people. Confrontation with the people is not acceptable," Erdogan said in an AKP meeting in the western province of Afyonkarahisar on Saturday. "If we don't make necessary changes, the people will do it at the ballot

boxes, and it will be more painful then," he added. AKP leaders and representatives gathered during the 26th semi-annual "consultation and assessment camp," which the main topic was the "renovation" efforts within the party, services in mayoralities and the six-month action plan of the ministers. "What are people saying to us? Change and renovate. The people want reforms from us. They expect bigger aims and bigger projects," Erdogan stressed. (Xinhua)

Turkish, French Presidents Discuss Syria, Iraq Issues via Phone

ANKARA — Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron discussed the current situation in Syria and Iraq via phone on Saturday. Erdogan and Macron exchanged views on developments in Iraq and Syria, as well as bilateral relations and regional issues, state-run Anadolu Agency reported, citing presidential source. The two leaders stressed the importance of preserving Iraq and Syria's

territorial integrity, the source said. Earlier in the day, Erdogan announced to launch a "serious operation" in Syria's Idlib, while Turkey and Russia jointly plan to set up "de-escalation" zones in Syria. On Sept. 25, Iraqi Kurdish Regional Government (KRG) held a controversial independence referendum despite fierce opposition from Baghdad and neighboring Iran and



Turkey. According to results announced by the KRG, almost 93 percent of registered voters cast ballots in favor of independence.

Turkey warned that the "irresponsible" referendum would damage the territorial integrity of Iraq and harm regional stability. (Xinhua)

France's Macron, Unions Seek Upper Hand in Struggle over Reforms



PARIS — Emmanuel Macron may have won the opening salvo in his battle to reform France's economy, but a nationwide strike by public workers this week will put more

pressure on a leader struggling to shake off criticism that he is "president of the rich". Strike notices have been lodged in schools, hospitals, airports and govern-

ment ministries. Tuesday's protest over plans to axe 120,000 jobs and reduce sick leave compensation will be the first time in a decade that all nine unions representing 5.4 million public workers have united behind a protest call. The walkout comes as Macron, 39, looks to reverse damaging headlines after a week in which he scrapped a wealth tax and was recorded making unsympathetic remarks about workers at a struggling factory. Opponents reacted by branding him out of touch

with ordinary voters. "It should be a massive mobilization of workers," Mylene Jacquot, a senior official from France's largest trade union, the moderate CFDT, told reporters. Macron says France's economy needs re-shaping to lure investment and rein in spending, as he strives to persuade Berlin that Paris can be a credible partner with whom to drive European reform. Public sector workers say they are bearing the brunt of the government's effort to tame its fiscal deficit. (Reuters)

May's Party Suspends Two EU Lawmakers over Brexit Vote

BRUSSELS — Britain's ruling Conservatives barred two of their own lawmakers in the European Parliament after they broke the party whip and voted for a motion demanding London do more to meet EU demands in Brexit talks. "Julie Girling and ... Richard Ashworth were suspended from the Conservative Party last night after supporting a resolution ... to block Brexit talks moving forward," the party said on Sunday in a statement that highlighted divi-

sions over Britain's move to quit the European Union in 18 months. Prime Minister Theresa May supported the move. A government source said the two had behaved "totally irresponsibly". "They left the party no choice but to act," Ashley Fox, leader of the 20-strong group, said in the statement, describing the decision of Ashworth and Girling, a former group leader and chief whip respectively, as "extremely regrettable". (Reuters)

OBOR Initiative Brings More than Infrastructure to Central and Eastern Europe

SKOPJE — "The role of human capital in the One Belt, One Road (OBOR) initiative" was the motto of the Third China-Central and Eastern Europe Conference on Cross-Cultural Dialogue, Education and Business that ended on Saturday in the Macedonian town Ohrid.

Although the infrastructure is important, the "One Belt, One Road" initiative is not only about constructing roads and building trade ties, but more importantly, it is about development and sustainability, says professor Chen Xin from Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Institute of European Studies during the two-day conference.

"In this regard, the human capital should play a significant role in the Belt and Road Initiative. Human capital can help people understand China more, explore and leverage opportunities for cooperation, join the innovation and technology processes, and enhance sustainable development," he adds. According to professor Howard A. Davies from the Hong Kong Polytechnic University, one of the most significant aspects of the "One Belt, One Road" initiative is truly understanding China. However, media coverage and analysis often remain significantly misinformed.

"Misunderstandings also arise through sloppy thinking, and because China is structurally and culturally different from the U.S. and Europe," professor Davies says. The infrastructural projects built with Chinese aid are extremely important for the region of Central and Eastern Europe, but we also need educational, scientific and cultural connection, Macedonian President Gorge Ivanov admits. (Xinhua)

Trump Says "Only One Thing will Work" with DPRK

WASHINGTON — U.S. President Donald Trump said Saturday that "only one thing will work" with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) after past talks with Pyongyang had yielded no results. "Presidents and their administrations have been talking to North Korea (DPRK) for 25 years, agreements made and massive amounts of money paid," Trump tweeted. "...Hasn't worked, agreements violated before the ink was dry, making fools of U.S. negotiators,"



Trump wrote. "Sorry, but only one thing will work!" Trump did not make clear to what he was referring to in his tweets. White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders later confirmed to media that

all options are still on the table and she had nothing further to add at this time. Tensions ran high on the Korean Peninsula as the DPRK conducted its sixth and most powerful nuclear test on Sept. 3. (Xinhua)

Top Leader Tasks DPRK with Nuclear, Missile Development Despite UN Sanctions

PYONGYANG — The top leader of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Kim Jong Un, has tasked the nation to go forward with nuclear and missile development despite numerous UN sanctions, the official Korean Central News Agency reported Sunday. At the Second Plenum of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held here Saturday, Kim justified the development of nuclear and missile programs by the DPRK as the only way of defense against "protracted nuclear threats" by the United States. "He solemnly declared: The nuclear weapons of the DPRK are a precious fruit borne

by its people's bloody struggle for defending the destiny and sovereignty of the country from the protracted nuclear threats of the U.S. imperialists. And they are a powerful deterrent firmly safeguarding the peace and security in the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia," said the report. The nuclear and missile capacities of the DPRK are also "reliably guaranteeing the Korean nation's sovereignty and rights to existence and development and a treasured sword of justice to remove the nuclear clouds of tyranny bringing a horrible disaster to mankind and make it possible for the people to lead an independent and happy life under the clear and blue sky," Kim said. (Xinhua)

Hundreds of Thousands Rally Against Catalonia Secession

BARCELONA, Spain — Hundreds of thousands of people rallied Sunday in downtown Barcelona to protest against the plans of Catalonia's regional government to secede from the rest of Spain.

The march was the largest pro-union showing since the rise of separatist sentiment in the prosperous north-eastern region that has pushed Spain to the brink of a national crisis. Barcelona police said 350,000 people participated, while march organizers Societat Civil Catalana said that 930,000 people turned out. Those numbers resemble the pro-independence rallies that Barcelona has seen in recent years.

Many in the crowd who marched through the city center under the slogan of "Let's recover our common sense!" carried Spanish, Catalan and European Union flags. Some chanted "Don't be fooled, Catalonia is Spain" and called for Catalan president Carles Puigdemont to go to prison. Sunday's rally comes a week after the Catalan government went ahead and held a referendum on secession that Spain's top court had suspended and the Spanish government said was illegal. Catalan authorities say the "Yes" side won the referendum with 90 percent of the vote, though only 43 percent of the region's 5.3 million eligible voters turned out in polling that was marred by police raids of polling stations on orders to confiscate ballot boxes. (AP)

Neighbor News

China's Green Development Efforts are Making a Positive Impact

BEIJING — Since the 18th CPC National Congress, China, under the guidance and leadership of Xi Jinping, has made remarkable social and economic achievements for which 1.3 billion Chinese people should be proud of. In the past five years, one of the most remarkable achievements China has truly made is ecological preservation which deserves much praise. It can be said that China's experiences on green development should be shared among countries since how to balance economic growth and environmental protection is a dilemma faced by most of the world.

President Xi has been attaching great importance to green development and ecological progress. He said that China should protect the environment "like one protects one's eyes" and treat the environment "as one treats one's life." In the last five years, active efforts have been made to push green development and green lifestyles, speeding up the transformation of

growth models and intensifying anti-pollution measures. China has concertedly promoted national prosperity and people's well-being, striving to build a country where human and nature can both pursue development harmoniously.

All along, China is on the road of building an ecological civilization with green development concepts. The goal of pursuing ecological progress has been put into practice ever since it was included in the Constitution of the Communist Party of China five years ago. China's 11th Five-Year Plan (2006-2010) set out the goal of "building a resource-conserving and environment-friendly society." The 12th Five-Year Plan (2011-15) stressed on "green development." It's heartening to see that the 13th Five-Year Plan (2016-20) has also set the goal of improving the overall environment to support its goal of building a "beautiful China," prioritizing "green hills and clear waters." (Agencies)

After China, Pak too Dismisses U.S.' CPEC Assertion

ISLAMABAD — Singing in a favourable tune with its economic partner, Pakistan has dismissed the United States' concern over the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) and said that the project was for the betterment of the people in the region and beyond.

"The CPEC is a development and connectivity project for the betterment of the people in the region and beyond", the Dawn quoted Foreign Office, as saying, in a statement. "The international community should focus on human rights violations and heinous crimes committed by Indian occupation forces in Indian occupied Kashmir," the statement further read.

The remarks by the foreign office have come after the U.S. Defence Secretary James Mattis told the Senate Armed Services Committee, during a hearing that "the One Belt, One Road also goes through the disputed territory, and I think that it itself shows the vulnerability of trying to establish that sort of a dictate." On Saturday, China re-

buffed the statement made by the Trump administration about the CPEC, citing that its OBOR initiative, which dictates the CPEC, was not directed against third parties. "We have repeatedly said that the CPEC is an economic cooperation initiative that is not directed against third parties and has nothing to do with territorial sovereignty disputes and does not affect China's principled stance on the Kashmir issue," the Chinese Foreign Ministry said, in a statement. Mattis had also told that in a globalised world, there are many belts and many roads, and no one nation should put itself into a position of dictating the 'One Belt, One Road'. China came up with its One Belt One Road (OBOR) initiative in 2013. The CPEC project comprises a network of railways, roads and pipelines that would connect Pakistan's port city of Gwadar in the province of Balochistan, with the Chinese city of Kashgar in landlocked Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region (XUAR). (ANI)

Iran Warns U.S. against Imposing New Sanctions

TEHRAN — Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) announced here Sunday that if the United States imposes new sanctions against Iran, it would have repercussions for Washington. In case the United States imposes fresh sanctions, they will have to relocate the U.S. regional bases out of the reach of Iran's missiles, state media quoted the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps commander as saying. Jafari cautioned the U.S. government of what he termed as the dire consequences of imposing new sanctions against Iran. The possible move by the U.S. administration would be considered as U.S. unilateral withdrawal from the nuclear agreement between Iran and the world powers sealed

in 2015, he commented. The IRGC commander also noted that if Washington decides to designate the IRGC as a terrorist organization, the IRGC will in turn treat the U.S. Army around the world, particularly in the Middle East, as the forces of the Islamic State militants. The U.S. administration has imposed several rounds of sanctions against Iran over the past months claiming that Iran has not observed the spirit of the nuclear deal Oswald two years ago. Washington says that Iran's missile program is threatening the regional and international peace. Iran denies the allegations stressing that it's missile program is only for deterrent purposes. (Xinhua)