

UNSC Mandated to Prepare Global Compact on Migration: President

GENEVA - The president of the United Nations General Assembly Miroslav Lajcak said Tuesday that the assembly has been mandated to prepare a global compact on migration.

"Migration as you all know is a global phenomenon, but we do not have a global governance," said Lajcak, who is also the Slovak minister of foreign affairs. He is currently the president of the UN General Assembly for the 72nd session from September 2017 to September 2018.

Lajcak said the General Assembly deals with migration based on individual member states, and it tends to be "reacting rather than being



proactive and being able to manage and to govern."

For that reason, the process is underway to draw up the global compact on migration. "We have been mandated to prepare two important documents, the global compacts on refugees and on migration," said Lajcak.

He said that by September next year the General Assembly would be able "to present for endorsement the first ever global framework dealing with migration."

In Geneva, Lajcak will chair a second multi-stakeholder meeting with a number of participants and stakeholders to hear their opinions and views. (Xinhua)

U.S. Strategic Bombers Fly over Korean Peninsula in Show of Force Against DPRK

SEOUL - Two U.S. strategic bombers flew over the Korean Peninsula Tuesday night in an apparent show of force against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff (JCS) said Wednesday. Two F-15K fighter jets of South Korea's Air Force conducted a joint exercise Tuesday night with two B-1B strategic bombers from the Andersen Air Force Base in the U.S. Pacific island of Guam, according to the JCS. The long-range U.S. supersonic bombers entered the Korea Air Defense Identification

Zone (KADIZ), before carrying out a simulated air-to-ground missile firing drill over the East Sea. The U.S. bombers, escorted by the South Korean fighters, flew across the South Korean inland areas to stage another simulated air-to-ground missile firing exercise in the West Sea, the JCS said. The mobilization of the U.S. strategic military assets to the peninsula came less than three weeks after another B-1B bombers flew at night in international airspace over waters off the DPRK's east coast on Sept. 23. (Xinhua)

China, Russia Reaffirm Position on Korean Peninsula Issue

BEIJING - China and Russia reaffirmed their positions on achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula during a dialogue on Northeast Asian security, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday. Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Morgulov Tuesday jointly chaired the eighth China-Russia consultation on the security situation in Northeast Asia, and discussed issues including

the Korean Peninsula. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Hua Chunying said China and Russia agreed that parties involved in the Korean Peninsula issue should exercise restraint, stop any move that may aggravate tension and safeguard peace and stability in the region.

The two countries also requested related parties actively respond to the initiatives proposed by China and Russia on the basis of dual-track and step by



step approaches and the "suspension for suspension" initiative, Hua said. Hua said both countries oppose the deployment of U.S. anti-missile Terminal

High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system in the Republic of Korea and agreed to maintain close communication and coordination. (Xinhua)

British Government Pressures Trump for Rethink on Iran Deal



LONDON - Britain has urged the United States to extend the Iran nuclear deal, with Prime Minister Theresa May saying it is "vitaly important for regional security."

May's office said she and

President Donald Trump spoke late Tuesday and both sides agreed their teams would remain in contact ahead of Trump's decision on the pact. Trump has threatened to scrap the agreement,

calling it the "worst deal ever." He must reauthorize the measure by Oct. 15 because of unilateral conditions set by Congress.

In a rare case of the U.K. publicly pressuring the U.S., the British government said Wednesday that Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson had called Secretary of State Rex Tillerson to underscore British support for the deal.

Johnson said the agreement - under which Iran agreed to limit its nuclear program in ex-

change for the lifting of economic sanctions - "was the culmination of 13 years of painstaking diplomacy and has increased security, both in the region and in the UK. It is these security implications that we continue to encourage the U.S. to consider."

The Foreign Office said Johnson also spoke to Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif and will meet Ali Akbar Salehi, Iran's vice president and head of its nuclear agency, in London on Wednesday. (AP)

Syria, Russia Agree on Projects for Reconstruction in Syria

DAMASCUS - As a political solution in Syria seems close, the government has already started securing economic deals for the reconstruction process in the war-torn country.

For now, the Syrian government seems to concentrate on making economic deals with its main international ally, Russia.

In the Russian Black Sea resort city of Sochi, a government delegation headed by Foreign Minister Walid al-Moallem took part in the plenary session of the Syrian-Russian joint Committee for Economic, Trade, Scientific and Technical Coopera-

tion and signed protocols of economic cooperation for the implementation of projects in Syria. Al-Moallem said Tuesday the meetings in Sochi have built a solid base for strategic cooperation in the economic field between both countries, according to state news agency SANA.

He went on saying that "it is normal that we fight together our battle of building the Syrian economy," stressing that both sides have been able, at the end of the Joint Committee, to "build a strategic base for the economic building between us." (Xinhua)

Spain Takes Step toward Direct Rule over Catalonia's Independence Move

MADRID/BARCELONA - Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy took the first step on Wednesday toward suspending Catalonia's political autonomy and ruling the region directly to thwart a push for independence. He demanded that the regional government clarify whether it now considered itself independent following a speech by Catalan president Carles Puigdemont on Tuesday night.

This requirement is a necessary step before triggering Article 155 of the constitution, which would allow Madrid to suspend the region's political autonomy.

Rajoy's move could deepen the confrontation between Madrid and Catalonia but it also signals a way out of Spain's biggest political crisis since a failed military coup in 1981. The prime minister would be likely to call a snap regional election after activating the constitutional mechanism allowing him to do so.

Puigdemont made a symbolic declaration of independence from Spain on Tuesday night but then immediately suspended it and called for talks with the Madrid government. "The cabinet has agreed this morning to formally request the Catalan government to confirm whether it has declared the independence of Catalonia, regardless of the deliberate confusion created over its implementation," Rajoy said in a televised address after a cabinet meeting to consider the government's response.

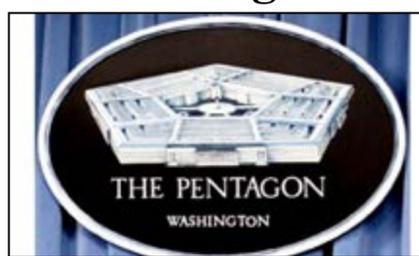
Without giving a specific deadline for the Catalan government to reply, Rajoy said: "The answer from the Catalan president will determine future events, in the next few days." (Reuters)

U.S.-Turkey Diplomatic Row Not Affecting Military Activities: Pentagon

WASHINGTON - The Pentagon said on Tuesday that diplomatic tension between the U.S. and Turkey has not affected their military activities.

"I can confirm that these developments have not impacted our operations or personnel," Pentagon spokesman Robert Manning told reporters here. "The Turkish air force base in Incirlik continues to fulfill an important role supporting NATO and coalition efforts," he added.

The United States and Turkey on Sunday in-



definitely halted all non-immigrant visa services to each other's citizens amid deepening differences between the two NATO allies.

The U.S. Embassy in Ankara made the first move by releasing a state-

ment saying that "recent events have forced the United States Government to reassess the commitment of the Turkish Government to the security of U.S. diplomatic facilities and personnel." (Xinhua)

Brexit Weighs on Economic Growth in Britain: Budget Watchdog

LONDON - The effects of Brexit have weighed on British economic growth, according to the economic watchdog the British Office of Budget Responsibility (OBR) on Tuesday. "The initial Brexit effect does seem to be broadly in line with expectations. GDP growth has slowed noticeably coming into 2017," said Robert Chote, chairman of the OBR, told journalists at a press conference in central London on Tuesday afternoon.

Chote was speaking at the annual assessment of the accuracy of economic forecasts from his body the OBR, which

is the UK fiscal statistics watchdog. UK GDP growth now stands at 0.3 percent quarter on quarter, having fallen from 0.6 percent growth in the second quarter of 2016 when the Brexit referendum vote was held in June last year. The OBR had also made assumptions in its economic models of reduced migration into Britain as a result of the Brexit vote, and that had been seen in statistics of inward migration, said Chote. This will also impact on economic growth. "We assumed that leaving the European Union (EU) would result in a net inward migration fall," he said. (Xinhua)

ASEAN Senior Officials Discuss Preparations for November Summit

MANILA - Senior officials from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) kicked off on Wednesday in Manila a three-day meeting to discuss preparations for next month's ASEAN summit and related meetings.

In a statement, the Department of Foreign Affairs of the Philippines said it is convening the Joint Consultative Meeting (JCM) to deliberate on the proposed outcome documents to be adopted or issued by the ASEAN leaders during their 31st summit here in November.

It said Philippine Foreign Undersecretary Enrique Manalo will chair the Oct. 11 to 13 meeting, which will also consider the logistic preparations for the summit.

The JCM is a cross-sector body composed of senior officials from the ministries in charge of foreign affairs, economy and socio-cultural affairs of the 10 ASEAN member states.

After the JCM, the ASEAN foreign affairs officials will meet with their counterparts from China, Japan and South Korea under the ASEAN Plus Three (APT) senior officials meeting.

They will also meet with the senior officials of the East Asia Summit (EAS), which includes Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia, and United States, among others, according to the statement.

The APT and EAS senior officials meeting will discuss preparations, including the outcome documents, for the ASEAN Plus Three summit and East Asia summit in November. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

19th CPC National Congress Media Center Starts Receiving Overseas Media

BEIJING - The media center for the upcoming 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) announced on Wednesday it will officially start receiving overseas media. The media center has been improved in terms of equipment and services, according to Hu Xiaohan, director of the media center.

The work space has been expanded to accommodate 170 journalists, 124 more than the 18th CPC National Congress. Media communication areas have been increased from two to four and Internet broadband has been boosted from 100 Mbps to 1000 Mbps, while Internet access ports have increased from 36 to 218. Free WiFi covers all service areas, offices and the press

room.

The media center has launched an official website and WeChat account to assist both domestic and overseas media and individuals. The site, 19th.cpcnews.cn, and the WeChat account, cpcnews19th, will provide journalists and members of the public with the congress agenda, latest news, announcements and background information on past national congresses in both Chinese and English.

Journalists can also inquire about services provided by the media center via the WeChat account. The media center is based in the Beijing Media Center Hotel. The 19th CPC National Congress is expected to begin on Oct. 18 in Beijing. (Xinhua)

Mamnoon Urges COMSTECH to Implement OIC Decisions

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain Wednesday directed the COMSTECH to expedite implementation of decisions taken during the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) Summit at Astana, Kazakhstan last month.

The President was talking to Coordinator General of COMSTECH, Dr. Shoukat Hameed here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. President Mamnoon Hussain, who is also the Chairman of COMSTECH, called for promoting education and research in the Islamic World for the development of science and technology and to improve the quality of life of common man. He said in this regard, it was necessary to establish academic

and research institutions in the Islamic World, besides enhancing the capacity of the existing institutions. The President called for devising a practicable strategy to acquire the required resources to ensure implementation of the recommendations approved in the OIC summit at Astana. He said representation of donor countries should be ensured for relevant institutions so that matters in this respect could be taken forward with mutual consultation and understanding.

The President said the new generation was the real asset of Islamic World and no stone should be left unturned for their better education and training. (Monitoring Desk)

Party that Scraps JCPOA Damages Own Reputation: Iran

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has described the 2015 nuclear deal as "a litmus test" for the world community, saying any party that walks away from the multilateral accord would be damaging its own reputation.

Speaking at a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Rouhani said the signatories that choose to honor their sides of the bargain are in fact protecting their own international reputation, adding that "if any side fails to stand committed to the deal, it would be tarnishing its own reputation."

He also noted that the

number of countries and regimes that support Washington's hostile stance on the nuclear deal could be counted on the fingers of one hand.

On the contrary, he said, "Today, the world backs the path that the Islamic Republic of Iran has chosen and there is no one, even among the US's allies in Europe, who supports destroying the agreement." In a recent interview with Forbes magazine, US President Donald Trump replied "No" to a question about whether he feels a responsibility to honor agreements from previous US administrations. (PressTV)

Trade Turnover between Russia and Uzbekistan Increases

TASHKENT - The implementation of agreements, concluded between Russia and Uzbekistan illustrate good results, the trade turnover between the countries has increased, Russian President Vladimir Putin said during the meeting with his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Wednesday.

"Despite a small decrease in turnover that we had last year, this year we already have a 20-percent increase for the first eight months," said the Russian president, TASS reported. Putin also added that even a more growth

is expected by the end of the year. "The growth in agriculture sector is very serious and considerable," he said. The two presidents stressed good prospects for cooperation in the sphere of industrial production and other areas significant areas.

President of Uzbekistan, in turn also noted the successful implementation of the agreements, previously concluded between the two countries. "We've experienced a lot of changes in many directions, including trade turnover after the visit to Russia," said Mirziyoyev. (Trend)