

British PM Visits Madrid to Discuss Brexit Terms

MADRID - British Prime Minister Theresa May visited acting Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy for a working lunch in the Spanish capital of Madrid on Thursday.

This is May's first visit to Spain since replacing David Cameron as prime minister in the wake of the June 23 "Brexit" referendum saw Britain vote to leave the European Union (EU) and the first visit since Cameron visited Spain on April 8, 2013.

Rajoy tweeted before the meeting that "he and Theresa May would work together to preserve the important connections between Spain and



the United Kingdom," and after the meeting the Spanish government website released a communique.

This communique assured Rajoy had "repeated his sorrow at the British decision and explained Spain's priorities at this undesired situation."

Rajoy explained to May that he would "defend" Spain's interests and the "rights of its citizens and Spanish's companies which could be harmed by the new situation."

Just as thousands of Spaniards live and work in Britain, Spain is home to a more British citizens than any other country in the... (More on P4)...(20)

Kerry Sees Progress in Talks on Cutting HFC Greenhouse Gases

KIGALI - Talks on a global pact to cut greenhouse gases used in refrigerators and air conditioners are making progress, U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry said on Friday, raising hopes for a breakthrough against climate change. Kerry consulted with officials from China, India and Pakistan on the sidelines of a meeting in Rwanda that aims to strike a deal among some 150 nations on ways to phase down factory-made hydrofluorocarbon (HFC) gases.

India wants to give developing nations more time to adapt their industries. The United States and about 100 other nations want faster action. If deal can be clinched, it would be the third significant step in fighting climate change this month.

"Everyone in this room is aware of how serious the stakes are," Kerry told delegates assembled for a plenary session. "The window of time that we have to prevent the worst... (More on P4)...(21)

Ankara, Baghdad Negotiate About Turkish Troops in Iraq

ANKARA - Turkey and Iraq carried on negotiations about Turkish troops in a military camp in Mosul region, Turkish presidential spokesperson Ibrahim Kalin said on Thursday.

Ankara wants to resolve the problem through negotiations with Baghdad, Kalin told reporters at the presidential complex.

Turkey neither has an eye on Iraq's land nor has any secret agenda, and whoever thinks in contrary is acting maliciously or in

deep delusion, he said. The spokesperson turned down war of words between Ankara and Baghdad that was erupted over Turkish troops in Bashiqa military camp in northern Iraq, local media reported.

Kalin warned of possibility of major migration from Mosul in case of mistakes in a planned military operation in the Iraqi province, according to private NTV. "Any offensive towards



Mosul is of particular concern to Ankara since any mistake can lead to thousands of people flee-

ing," he said. Turkey's primary concern regarding an operation... (More on P4)...(22)

UN Envoy Warns of Fresh Conflict between Gaza Militants, Israel

GAZA - UN Special Co-ordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Nickolay Mladenov warned on Thursday of a new round of violent conflict between Israel and militant groups in the Gaza Strip.

He made the remarks in a news briefing in Gaza, saying that "heat in the Gaza Strip is growing up" between Israel and the Palestinian military factions, mainly Hamas movement, which rules the Gaza Strip. He warned those "who believe that it's possible to punish the Gaza Strip and

keep it under blockade." Mladenov arrived in Gaza earlier on Thursday in a two-day visit to the coastal enclave that has been under a tight Israeli blockade for 10 years.

He also denounced those "who are digging underground tunnels and make use and invest construction raw-material in the black market for keeping the conflict flaring," saying such behavior equally endangers Palestinians and Israelis lives.

He called on an end to the... (More on P4)...(23)

Overall UN Financial Situation Sound, but with Cash Flow Problem: Senior Official

UNITED NATIONS - The overall financial condition of the United Nations is "a sound one" but there is a cash flow problem because many member states have not fully paid their assessed contributions, UN Under-secretary-General for Management Yukio Takasu told reporters here Thursday. Only 27 of the 193 member states have paid in full, he said at a press conference at UN Headquarters in New York. The regular 2016-2017 biennial regular budget is for about 5.6 billion U.S. dollars, Takasu

said, and of that about half is due to be paid this year. But only 1.89 billion U.S. dollars have been paid so far and there is a campaign underway to get those nations behind in their payments to come up with their share. There is a separate budget of about 8.2 billion U.S. dollars for peacekeeping operations this budget year which runs from July to June as



opposed to the regular budget running along with the calendar year. "Financials for peacekeeping are

fine," Takasu said, explaining the organization can borrow from the peacekeeping fund. (Xinhua)

Sudan, Russia Sign Agreements for Mining

KHARTOUM - Sudan signed with Russia a number of agreements for exploring mineral fields in Sudan, said Sudan's minister of minerals on Thursday.

The agreements, signed between the mineral ministry and the Russian State Geological Company, covered development of mineral exploration and geological laboratories, said Ahmed Mohamed Sadiq Al-Karuri, the minister of minerals, after the signing ceremony.

Al-Karuri praised the agreements as the fruit of the Joint Sudanese-Russian Ministerial Committee, which aims at economic development and technology cooperation in Sudan. He added that Russia, with its experience, would also carry out geological mapping operation in Sudan and establish a data base to enhance the mineral sector here.

In December 2015, Sudan and Russia signed 14 agreements regarding fields of oil and minerals. Sudan is seeking to increase its minerals production, namely gold, to... (More on P4)...(24)

UN Chief-Designate Prioritizes Peace, Particularly in Syria

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General-designate Antonio Guterres said Thursday that peace would be the most pressing issue on his agenda, and he will do his best to address the current conflicts worldwide, especially the one in Syria.

Guterres was appointed by the UN General Assembly on Thursday as the ninth UN secretary-general whose five-year term will begin on Jan. 1, 2017.



In an interview with Xinhua after his appointment, Guterres said among all the conflicts over the world, the one in Syria is the most dramatic in which people

are suffering more than anywhere else, and therefore "the priority is in Syria." Noting there are also conflicts in Iraq, Yemen, Nigeria... (More on P4)...(25)

Australian State Weighs into U.S. Presidential Election

SYDNEY - An Australian state has made a symbolic gesture calling out misogyny and bigotry in the United States' presidential election after labelling Republican nominee Donald Trump "a revolting slug".

Whoever is President of the United States has great bearing on the future direction of the close strategic and economic relationship, however Australian politicians have been in "open season" attacking Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump over divisive rhetoric not welcome in the modern world. The New South Wales (NSW) state government on Thursday weighed further

into the U.S. election furore to unanimously pass a motion agreeing prospective presidential candidate Donald Trump is "a revolting slug" and unfit for office.

"It's great that all sides of Australian politics, from conservatives to liberals to Greens, agree that Donald Trump is a revolting slug' and completely unfit for public office," NSW legislative council member for the Greens party Jeremy Buckingham said in a statement.

"It's clear that all reasonable and decent people find Donald Trump's behavior obnoxious and that the world is hoping American voters... (More on P4)...(27)

Houthis Says U.S. Targeting Yemen not Acceptable

SANAA - The United States' attack on the Yemeni territory is not acceptable, warning the power country against any future attack, a military spokesman of the Yemeni dominant Shiite Houthi group said Thursday in a statement carried by Houthi-run Saba news agency. The pentagon said it carried out three strikes with cruise missiles targeting three radar sites on the Yemeni Red Sea coast under control of Houthi rebels.

"We reiterated our denial of targeting any U.S.

warship in the Red Sea, confirming our complete control of our fighters, naval defense weapons and all territories, except the territories under control of al-Qaida or Saudi-led military coalition," said Brigadier General Sharaf Luqman, the spokesman for Yemeni forces fighting alongside the Houthis.

"The direct American attack against the Yemeni soil this morning is not acceptable, and we will respond with any future development in the appropriate time and with... (More on P4)...(26)

Serbia, Albania to Improve Relations for EU Integration

BELGRADE - Better political relations among Serbia, Albania and in the region will improve chances for faster EU accession and economic progress, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic said here Thursday. Vucic made the statement at the opening of the sixth Belgrade Security Forum. Albanian Prime Minister Edi Rama was also in attendance.

Partaking in the opening discussion on the future of Albanian-Serbian relations and the stability of south east Europe, Vucic said that despite his worries about political relations in the region, he saw immense potential. "We have built a trust between Serbs and Albanians, but it is still fragile," Vucic said, warning there were other regional... (More on P4)...(28)

Nieghbor News

China, Bangladesh Lift Ties to Strategic Partnership of Cooperation

DHAKA - Visiting Chinese President Xi Jinping held talks with Bangladeshi Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina on Friday and the two leaders agreed to upgrade bilateral ties to a strategic partnership of cooperation.

During the meeting, Xi said the closer comprehensive partnership of cooperation the two sides forged in 2010 has yielded fruitful results, with bilateral cooperation advancing steadily in political, economic, cultural and security areas and on international and regional affairs.

China highly values its friendly cooperative ties with Bangladesh and will continue to offer support within its capacity for the economic and social development of the South Asian country, Xi said.

China stands ready to push forward bilateral practical cooperation by aligning the development strategies of the two countries, said the Chinese president.

Noting that China is striving for its "two centenary goals" while Bangladesh is pursuing its "Sonar Bangla" dream of national strength and prosperity, Xi added that the China-proposed Belt and Road Initiative can dovetail with Bangladesh's cooperation strategies with the outside world.

The "two centenary goals" refer to China's aspiration to finish building a moderately prosperous society in all respects by the time the Communist Party of China celebrates its centenary in 2021 and turn the... (More on P4)...(29)

Azerbaijan, Pakistan Discuss Plans for Joint Military Training

ISLAMABAD - Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev addressing a joint press conference alongside Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif on Friday said both countries have discussed plans for joint military training between their armed forces.

"Pakistan has a very developed defence industry. We discussed detailed cooperation in this area... So we can work together to establish joint production," said President Aliyev.

The Azerbaijan president said both countries had discussed plans for joint military training as well.

"Political contacts will continue," he said, and both countries have discussed how to increase levels of trade.

"What we can export to each other will be closely addressed in the coming months," he said.

President Aliyev also stated that travel between the two countries would become easier after an electronic visa system was implemented.

Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif called for all regional and global issues to be resolved through dialogue and peaceful means and within the international laws. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Urges 'Immediate Ceasefire' in Syria

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has called for an "immediate and lasting humanitarian ceasefire" in Syria in a telephone conversation with his Russian counterpart.

The conversation was the second between Zarif and Sergei Lavrov over the past 48 hours, coming in the wake of a fresh international push to end the conflict.

Officials said US Secretary of State John Kerry would meet Lavrov in Switzerland on Saturday to discuss Syria. The meeting was expected to include foreign ministers from Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Zarif earlier held phone talks with EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, stressing Iran's "principled position on the all-out fight against terrorism and terrorist groups" and finding "an inclusive political solution" to the Syria conflict.

Meanwhile, Lavrov contacted his French counterpart Jean-Marc Ayrault to discuss fresh efforts for putting an end to the conflict.

A ceasefire expired on September 19 after being in place for only a week. Damascus refused to extend it after US airstrikes killed 83 Syrian soldiers at a military base in Dayr al-Zawr. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan, WB Sign Consulting Agreement

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen Finance Ministry and the World Bank (WB) signed an agreement on rendering paid consulting services in the financial sector and macroeconomics, the Turkmen Dowlət Khabarlarý state news agency (TDH) reported on Friday.

According to the message, the signing ceremony took place as part of at the annual meeting of the IMF and WB Group's Boards of Governors.

"The activities planned to be held in accordance with this document are aimed at supporting the business model and

corporate governance reform in the banking sector and facilitating the development of the credit reporting system," the message said.

According to the message, the activities are also aimed at assessing national risk in the field of combating money laundering, financing of terrorism and strengthening of macroeconomic statistics.

The investments are planned to be made and consulting services are planned to be rendered to the Turkmen private financial institutions and companies as part of the agreement, the message said. (Trend)