

# EU Continues to Fully Implement Iran Nuclear Deal: Mogherini

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) will continue to fully implement the Iran nuclear deal, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to decertify Iran's compliance with the deal, EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said here on Friday.

"It's not a bilateral agreement. It does not belong to any single country. It's not up to any single country to terminate it," said Mogherini at a press conference. "We cannot afford... to dismantle a nuclear agreement this is work-



ing and delivering," she added.

Mogherini's remarks came following Trump's announcement that he had decided not to recertify to Congress Iran's compliance with the landmark deal. Trump also threatened that he may terminate the nuclear deal at any time.

According to the Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INRA) passed by U.S. Congress in 2015, the U.S. government is required to recertify to Congress Iran's compliance with the nuclear deal every 90 days. (Xinhua)

## Trump's Decision Won't Cancel Iran Nuclear Deal: France

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron during a phone conversation with his Iranian counterpart on Friday voiced commitment to the Iran nuclear deal, saying the United States decision to decertify the accord would not cancel it. The U.S. decision "would not put an end to the Iranian nuclear agreement," Macron said, pledging that "with all parties, France and its European partners would continue to implement their commitments." Over the phone talk, the French president told his

Iranian counterpart Hassan Rouhani to strictly respect the accord and make progress in dialogue over issues related to its ballistic program and regional security in order to press through the deal's full implementation. Iran signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) in 2015 with the United States, Russia, Britain, China and France plus Germany, under which Tehran agreed to roll back parts of its nuclear weapon program in exchange for decreased economic sanctions. (Xinhua)

## Russian Senate Head to Discuss Nuclear Program with North, South Korea

MOSCOW - A senior official in the Russian parliament will discuss North Korea's missile and nuclear program in separate talks with parliamentarians from Seoul and Pyongyang on Monday, TASS news agency said. Valentina Matviyenko, speaker of the Senate upper house, will discuss the issue with a deputy head of North Korea's legislature and the head of South Korea's parliament on the sidelines of a congress of parliamentarians in St Petersburg, TASS quoted

a senior Russian lawmaker as saying. "Both meetings will take place on Oct. 16," TASS cited Konstantin Kosachev, head of the Senate's international relations committee, as saying. Quoting an unnamed source, RIA news agency said earlier on Saturday the meetings would take place on Oct. 15.

"I believe that during the meetings the Russian side will call (on North and South Korea) to hold direct contacts. This would



be quite natural, but of course we cannot, and should not, force anyone to do so," Kosachev told TASS. North Korea's nuclear tests and missile launches have stirred global tensions and prompted several rounds of international sanctions at the U.N. Security Council. (Reuters)

## Trump's Iran Decision Takes Wind out of EU's Sails

BRUSSELS - U.S. President Donald Trump on Friday announced that he will no longer certify Iran's compliance with a landmark nuclear deal, dealing another blow to the already-frayed transatlantic ties. The Iran nuclear deal, formally known as Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), was inked in 2015 by Britain, China, France, Russia, the United States and Germany with Iran. The EU also played an important role in brokering the deal and deemed it as one of the bloc's outstanding diplomatic achievements. Under the deal, Iran halts

its nuclear weapon program in exchange for economic aid and relief of international sanctions. Trump's announcement came as no surprise, given that he let out a torrent of angry words over the deal on his campaign trail as Republican presidential candidate. Nevertheless, it is also noteworthy that he grudgingly recertified twice Iran's compliance with the deal since taking office in January.

The tycoon-turned president is believed to be fed up with the quarterly recertification procedure and eager to pass the buck to Congress. (Xinhua)

## Trump's Speech Ran Counter to Norms of Civilized World: Russia



MOSCOW - Russia has condemned US President Donald Trump's recent anti-Iran speech, saying there is no room for aggressive rhetoric in international diplomacy and in

the civilized world. In a statement issued on Friday, Russia's Foreign Ministry said Trump's speech "once again underlines the inadmissibility of using aggressive and

threatening rhetoric in international relations" and that such language was "doomed to fail."

"It is a hangover from the past, which does not correspond to modern norms of civilized dealings between countries," the Russian statement read. Earlier on Friday, the US president had given a speech filled with anti-Iran insults. He said he would not certify Iran's compliance with the terms of the 2015 nuclear agreement under a domestic American law. The US president also threatened to "terminate" the agree-

ment, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), if he could not "reach a solution working with Congress and our allies" to change it. Elsewhere in its statement, the Russian Foreign Ministry said it "viewed with regret" Trump's decision on the JCPOA, saying, "We expect that this step will not have a direct effect on the progress of implementation of the agreements, although, clearly, it does not correspond to the spirit and letter." (Presstv)

## US-Backed Forces Expected to Continue Fight Against Foreign IS Militants in Syria's Raqqa

DAMASCUS - Most of the local Islamic State (IS) militants have surrendered to the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF), while the foreign militants refused to give up in the northern city of Raqqa, a well-informed source told Xinhua on Saturday.

Tens of IS militants have surrendered over the past 24 hours to the SDF in the few areas the terror-designated group is holding in Raqqa, but the foreign ones have been reluctant to do so, which means they will fight till the end, the source, close to the Kurds, said on condition of anonymity.

A day earlier, Al-Arabya TV said Raqqa, the de facto capital of IS, was empty of IS militants following a deal for their surrender with the SDF, an alliance of Kurds, Arabs and Assyrians led by the Kurdish YPG group and supported by the U.S.-led coalition.

The coalition said 100 IS militants surrendered in Raqqa over the past 24 hours, expecting a tough battle against the remaining fighters who refused to surrender in areas they are still holding in Raqqa.

It added that it accepts the surrender of IS militants there. Meanwhile, the SDF said in a statement that its fighters have become in control over 95 percent of the city.

The SDF also posted a video, purporting to show civilians fleeing the IS-controlled areas in Raqqa toward the areas captured recently by the SDF, with the coalition estimating that around 4,000 civilians are still being held by the IS as human shields in Raqqa. (Xinhua)

## Russia Says IS Left with Just 8 Percent of Syria

MOSCOW - Less than eight percent of Syrian territory remains under control of the Islamic State (IS) as Syrian government troops supported by Russian jets have freed most of the country, Russian military said Friday.

IS-held territory declined by 5,841 square km in the past month and 142 settlements were liberated, Sergei Rudskoi, chief of the Main Operational Directorate of the Russian Armed Forces General Staff, said at a news briefing.

He said Syrian troops are successfully advancing in the east of the country, having repelled attacks



by several thousand IS militants. In central Syria, the government troops have completely eliminated IS units surrounded in the city of Akerbat, Rudskoi said.

The Syrian government troops and the Russian air force will continue operations against the IS and

other terrorist groups until their complete destruction, he said.

The ongoing Syrian civil war broke out in spring of 2011 between the government forces, along with its allies, and various forces opposing the government, including the IS militants. (Xinhua)

## Prospect of Brexit Continues to Mute British Services Sector: Business Group

LONDON - British economic growth in services sector continues to remain muted by the prospect of Brexit, figures released on Friday showed.

The latest quarterly economic forecast by the industry representative body the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) found that the dominant services sector of the UK economy, accounting for about 77 percent of GDP, growth and sales remained flat during the third quarter of the year. "The services sector remains under pressure, and with most indicators broadly static in the quarter,

the sector has yet to recover from the loss of momentum suffered in the wake of the EU referendum," Suren Thiru, BCC head of economics, told Xinhua.

The services sector driven by consumer spending has been the main cause of UK economic growth over the past few years, but inflation has eaten into disposable income.

The BCC survey found that the proportion of manufacturing firms reporting improved domestic sales and orders both rose in the quarter to their highest levels since the first quarter of 2015. (Xinhua)

## N. Korea Readies Missile Launch Ahead of US-S. Korea Drill

SEOUL - North Korea is believed to be preparing to launch a ballistic missile ahead of an upcoming joint naval drill by the US and South Korea, a news report said Saturday, citing a government source.

The US navy said Friday that a US aircraft carrier will lead the drill in the coming week, a fresh show of force against North Korea as tensions soar over the hermit state's weapons programme.

The move will likely rile Pyongyang which has previously responded angrily to joint exercises.

The Donga Ilbo daily, quoting a government source, said satellite pictures show ballistic missiles mounted on launchers being transported out of hangars near Pyongyang and in the North Phyongan Province.

US and South Korean military officials suspect the North might be preparing to launch missiles capable of reaching US territory, the newspaper said.

This could be the Hwasong-14 intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), whose range could extend to Alaska, or Hwasong-12 intermediate-range missiles which Pyongyang threatened to fire towards the US Pacific territory of Guam in August, the report said.

Another possibility is that the North might be preparing to test a new Hwasong-13 ICBM, it added, that has a longer maximum range than the other two missiles and could potentially reach the US West Coast. (AFP)

## Neighbor News

### China Witnesses "Deep, Fundamental" Changes in Past 5 Years: Communique

BEIJING - China has witnessed deep and fundamental changes over the past five years, while its achievements are comprehensive and groundbreaking, according to a communique released Saturday.

The communique was issued after the Seventh Plenary Session of the 18th Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which was held in Beijing from Oct. 11 to 14.

These historic changes and achievements indicate that China's development stands at a new historical starting point, which is of great and far-reaching significance for the cause of the Party and the country, according to the communique. The plenary session summarized the work of the past five years since the

18th CPC National Congress and held that the five years was an "extraordinary" period.

China has made historic achievements in reform and opening up, as well as socialist modernization, it said.

Over the past five years, the CPC Central Committee with Comrade Xi Jinping at the core raised a series of new ideas, thoughts and strategies, formulated a string of important guidelines and policies and rolled out many significant measures, it said.

Many deep-rooted problems and issues that were too difficult to be resolved before have been addressed during that period, which promoted the historic changes for the cause of the Party and the country, according to the document. (Xinhua)

### People Alone Can Make Best Decisions under Democratic System: Abbasi

KARACHI - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Saturday reposed his confidence that the people of Pakistan would decide the future government, juxtaposing the unprecedented performance of Pakistan Muslim League-N with its rival political parties and previous regimes.

He noted that democracy was sine qua non for the progress and prosperity of the country and its people.

The dictators had always failed to deliver and their rule did not augur well for the country's future, he said.

The prime minister was addressing the inauguration ceremony of Pakistan International Bulk Terminal Limited (PIBT),

the country's first coal, clinker and cement terminal at the Port Qasim. The terminal has been completed at a cost of \$285 million and so far provided berths to 12 coal ships.

The prime minister credited the people of Pakistan for their decision in favour of democratic system and noted that the continuity of the system would also provide panacea to certain issues. Under the democratic system, people make their best choices and sent those people packing to homes who had failed to perform according to their expectations, he said, adding the challenges always emerged but those would be tackled and resolved. (Monitoring Desk)

### EU Accused of 'Weak' Statement After Human Rights Visit to Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - A European Union delegation has found persisting "shortcomings" in the human rights situation in Tajikistan, although it has noted "good progress" in some areas, the EU said in an October 13 statement.

The statement was immediately criticized by Human Rights Watch as "very weak."

The EU delegation, led by the head of its Central Asia division, Toivo Klaar, met with Abdujabbor Sattorzoda, chief of President Emomali Rahmon's human rights department, in Tajikistan's capital, Dushanbe, the

statement said.

It concluded that the activity of civil society groups in the Central Asian country has become more restricted and urged the Tajik government to better involve NGOs in the legislative process.

The meeting agreed that Tajikistan has made "good progress" regarding women's rights and the prevention of domestic violence, and that "significant efforts have been made by the Tajik government to prevent torture and ill treatment," the statement said. (Agencies)

### Caspian States Mull Marine Navigation Issues in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The eighth meeting of heads of administrations of the Caspian littoral states' seaports is being held in Turkmenbashi city, the Turkmen Dovlet Habarlary state news agency reported.

Representatives of Azerbaijan, Iran, Kazakhstan, Russia and Turkmenistan will discuss the cooperation in the field of navigation, maritime freight traffic, ensuring safety of navigation, development of port infrastructure, exchange of logistics information, protection of the Caspian marine environment.

One of the meeting's main topics is the capacity building and raising the international rating of the Caspian ports, including through the modernization of their production infrastructure, technical re-equipment, the introduction of modern technologies in the service of transportation ships, says the report. Earlier, local media reported that given the favorable geo-economic position of the country, Turkmenistan attached great importance to the development of the sea and river transportation sector. (Trend)