

# EU Brexit Chief Urges Britain to Keep up the Momentum

BRUSSELS — The European Union's Brexit negotiator urged the British government Tuesday to keep up the momentum in negotiations on leaving the bloc if it wants the talks to advance to a new phase in December.

"It's very important to maintain this constructive dynamic in the coming two months," Michel Barnier told reporters in Luxembourg. Barnier held dinner talks Monday with British Prime Minister Theresa May and European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker as London seeks to broaden the Brexit negotiations, around a year before the highly techni-



cal and complex talks must be completed to leave time for parliaments to endorse any agreement.

The EU says it will only discuss future relations with Britain once "sufficient progress" has been made on the divorce bill, the rights of citizens hit by Brexit and the status of the Northern Ireland-Ireland border. May believes these issues are deeply linked to future EU-U.K. relations, and that it all should be discussed as a package. EU leaders are unlikely to broaden the talks at their two-day summit starting Thursday but might do so when they meet again in Brussels in December. (AP)

## S. Korean PM Stresses Peaceful Resolution of Korean Peninsula's Nuke Issue

SEOUL - South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon on Tuesday stressed an importance for peaceful resolution of the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue despite the continued provocation from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Lee said in his speech for the opening ceremony of the World Knowledge Forum in Seoul that though the DPRK continued nuclear and missile provocations, South Korean government should continue to pressure and persuade the DPRK not to make a

wrong choice. The prime minister, however, said he believed this issue should be eventually resolved in a peaceful manner. He expressed his hope that the international community would cooperate in such policy of the South Korean government. During the speech at the forum, organized by local economic daily Maeil Business Newspaper, Lee said South Korea would overcome challenges from at home and abroad though the country was placed at an inflection point. (Xinhua)

## Trump to Make 2-Day State Visit to S. Korea for Summit, Speech in Parliament: Seoul

SEOUL - U.S. President Donald Trump will make a two-day state visit to South Korea next month to hold a summit meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and deliver a speech to the National Assembly, Moon's office said Tuesday.

Park Soo-hyun, spokesman for Moon, told a press briefing that Trump will arrive in South Korea in the morning of Nov. 7 and leave the country in the afternoon of Nov. 8.

During the first day of his state visit, Trump and Moon will hold a summit meeting at the presidential Blue House, before having a joint press conference in the Blue House.

A state dinner will be held later in the day, with various friendship events to be prepared.

On the second day, the U.S. leader will give a speech to South Korean lawmakers. During his National As-



sembly speech, Trump is expected to talk about stronger South Korea-U.S. alliance, responses to the nuclear issue on

the Korean Peninsula and the situations in the peninsula and the Northeast Asia, the spokesman said. (Xinhua)

## Netanyahu Meets Russian Defense Minister on Syria Situation

JERUSALEM - Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu met on Tuesday in Jerusalem to discuss the developments in Syria and Iran, Israel said. Shoigu arrived in Israel on Monday, a few hours after Israel struck a Syrian anti-aircraft missile battery. Russia is one of the strongest supporters of President Bashar As-

sad's regime and carries out frequent air strikes in Syria. Shoigu's meeting with Netanyahu "mostly dealt with Iran's attempt to establish itself militarily in Syria," according to a statement released by the Israeli Prime Minister's Office.

Netanyahu told Shoigu that "Iran needs to understand that Israel will not allow this," the statement read. Israeli Defense Min-

ister Avigdor Lieberman also took part in the meeting. Israel worries that Iran will establish a stronghold along its northern border. It also charges that the Iran arms Hezbollah, Iran-backed Lebanese militia, with new weapons. Iran denies it sent weapons to Hezbollah. Netanyahu, a prominent opponent of the Iranian nuclear agreement, also told Shoigu that "Iran will have an ar-

senal of nuclear weapons within 8-10 years if the deal is not changed." According to Israeli media, Israel informed Russia about the attack, 50 km east of Damascus, "in real time."

For the past few years, Israel and Russia have been coordinating their operations in Syria to avoid conflict in the volatile region, according to Israeli officials. (Xinhua)

## Potential Ally Urges Merkel to Give up Finance Ministry

BERLIN — A key potential ally in Germany's next government insisted Tuesday that Chancellor Angela Merkel's party shouldn't keep the finance ministry because that gives her too much power.

Exploratory talks on a potential coalition of Merkel's conservatives, the pro-business Free Democrats and traditionally left-leaning Greens start on Wednesday. Merkel's current part-

ners, the center-left Social Democrats, vowed to go into opposition after last month's election.

Outgoing Finance Minister Wolfgang Schaueble, a member of Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, has been a powerful figure for the past eight years in domestic politics and in the eurozone's efforts to overcome the debt crisis that started in Greece. He is leaving to become parliamentary speaker. (AP)

## Neighbor News

### 19th CPC National Congress to Plan for Political Reform

BEIJING - The 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC) will map out overall reform measures about the country's political system and other systems, a spokesman for the congress said Tuesday. Based on the systematic review of achievements and experience of reform in the past, the congress will strive to address outstanding issues that have emerged in practice and work out overall reform measures, Tuo Zhen told reporters. "We will unwaveringly move toward the goal of improving and developing socialism with Chinese characteristics and modernizing China's state governance system and capability," Tuo said. "All the achievements China has made in reform and development since the

launch of reform and opening up nearly four decades ago will not be possible without political system reform, and this will remain the case in the future," he said. The spokesman said China has achieved major and historic achievements in political system reform, which have provided important guarantee for deepening reform in other fields and created better conditions for economic and social development. China will not copy and replicate the models of other countries in political system reform, the spokesman said. "Our unique cultural traditions, unique historic experience and unique national conditions determine that we must pursue a path of development suited to our own features," he said. (Xinhua)

### Iran Warns Europe against New Nuke Deal Conditions

TEHRAN - A top advisor to Iran's supreme leader warned European governments on Tuesday against imposing new conditions on the nuclear deal.

"To say that they accept the JCPOA (nuclear deal) but should negotiate on Iran's regional presence or talk about Iran's missile defences is to set conditions on the JCPOA, and this is not at all acceptable," said Ali Akbar Velayati, senior foreign policy advisor to Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

The JCPOA has no conditions and it must be implemented according to what was signed," he said in comments carried by the state broadcaster. In a call with his Iranian counterpart Has-

san Rouhani on Friday, French President Emmanuel Macron said talks on regional security and Iran's ballistic missile programme were necessary to ensure the survival of the 2015 nuclear deal.

Without referring directly to Macron, Velayati said European leaders "should take more care in their remarks and demands". Despite calling for further talks, Macron has staunchly backed the nuclear accord against US President Donald Trump's threats to "terminate" it.

His call with Rouhani came shortly after Trump's bellicose speech criticising the deal, and Macron said he would visit Iran "at the appropriate time". (AFP)

### REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

**DABS Fiber Optic Core's Lease**  
**DABS/96/ICB/024**

**COUNTRY: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan**

**NAME OF PROJECT: DABS Fiber Optic Core's Lease**

**Reference NO: DABS/96/ICB/024**

### EXPRESSION OF INTREST

#### Background

The proposed DABS planning for utilizing their infrastructure for value added services has two components: (I) DABS offering its fiber optic cores infrastructure for data communications from Balkh and Qunduz to Nengerhar and Laghman through Baghlan, Perwan and Kabul provinces (II) Investors utilizing it for value added services within the current infrastructure.

**COMPONENT I:** DABS is the sole provider of Electricity in Afghanistan through their power line infrastructure in almost all the provinces across Afghanistan, and on its transmission power lines, DABS has installed OPGW which has extra fiber optic cores (the amount of available fiber optic cores in each segment, with its related technical data plus its map is added in DABS OPTICAL FIBER TECH DOC FOR LEASE PURPOSE [IN A4].pdf file). Having this advantage to our profile, DABS would like to invite investors to invest with DABS such that they can utilize the available resources and provide additional services. This is an invitation for a Public Private Partnership (PPP)

DABS will not invest but share in with the investors in the revenue stream generated from the proposed solution.

**COMPONENT II:** Investors should propose a solution where they can use the existing DABS fiber optic cores infrastructure and inject VAS "Value Added Services" through it to the end users, or for the transmission of data from northern to central and eastern provinces and then to end users. The investor should propose a complete solution, which takes care of all the aspects, from planning, deployment and delivery to end users, including maintenance contract of 10 Years and billing solutions. Investors should provide their business plan for at least 5 years. Investors should also provide their full technical proposal along with their compatibility to accomplish the target.

1. Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat now invites expression of interest (EOI) from eligible interested bidders having experience in the required areas. Interested firms must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services.
2. The bidders should provide (brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, financial annual report.). Service providers may associate to enhance their qualifications.

### 3. The Short Listing Criteria are;

- The investor should be in ISP business for the last 10 years of experience in the region understanding the requirement of both business and home users for internet;
- Must have a valid business license;
- The investor should have already sold a bandwidth of more than 1 Gigabit to the end users in the market;
- Use fiber optic cores to transmit data in far distances;
- The Investor should provide the followings details as well;
  - ✓ Business plan
  - ✓ Target areas (in this case it is segments) and the amount fiber cores required for their use;
  - ✓ How it can benefit DABS other than the revenue streams generated by this investment;
  - ✓ Fiber Optic Maintenance plan of the investor;
  - ✓ Technical capabilities of the investor;
  - ✓ Financial capabilities of the investor.

The requirements for investors who intends to associate with other firm(s) in the form of a Joint Venture (JV) to enhance their qualifications indicated as under:

- o Lead partner should be national/international firm meeting the above requirements;
- o JV partner should have proven expertise and experience in power infrastructure and data for at least 8years.

4. The interested bidders will be selected in accordance with procedure set out in the Public Procurement Law and its Procedures, Saratan 1395 (July 2016).

5. Interested bidders may obtain further information at the address below during office hours 0900 to 1500 hours on any working day from Saturday to Wednesday.

Expression of Interest must be delivered to the address below by **15<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017** at 16:00 local time.

**Da Afghanistan Breshna Sherkat (DABS)**

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