

EU States to Pump "Sufficient" Money to Stem Illegal Migration: Tusk

BRUSSELS - Member states of the European Union (EU) will pump "sufficient" money into a trust fund to stem illegal migration from North Africa, European Council President Donald Tusk said here on Thursday.

He made the remarks at a joint press conference with his European Commission counterpart Jean-Claude Juncker, following a first day EU summit, which focused on migration, digital Europe, as well as security and defense. He said EU leaders have agreed on the need to help Italy manage the Central Mediterranean route, which



links Libya to Italy and was named as the deadliest route to Europe by the International Organization for Migration (IOM) in a study published in September 2017. "We have a real chance of closing the Central Mediterranean route. That is why we decided that member states will provide sufficient finances for the North Africa window of the Trust Fund for Africa, while the Commission ensures that this money is channeled to stem illegal migration," Tusk said. "We should see concrete results within the next few weeks," he added. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

Senior UN Official "Impressed" by China's Progress

SANTIAGO - The executive secretary of a United Nations economic organization said she's "greatly impressed" by China's progress over the past five years.

"I have been greatly impressed by what President Xi Jinping has done in these five years, placing a great emphasis on the fight against corruption and against poverty," said Alicia Barcena, executive secretary of the UN's Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) in a recent interview with Xinhua. She made the remarks as more than 2,200 delegates have gathered in Beijing for the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China (CPC), which opened Wednesday. "China

has a great commitment to ... peace, the fight against climate change and the realization of shared prosperity. It has ... shown it with the Belt and Road (Initiative)," said Barcena.

"The Chinese must feel very proud of having a leader who has such clarity, who knows where to take the country and who has also made a great educational shift so new generations can be part of a clear and transparent society," she said. Barcena also noted that the Chinese president now faces new demands from a society that wants a higher quality of life.

"This plan to refocus Chinese socialism through a political project strikes me as very important to improve quality of life," she added. (Xinhua)

Iran Warns Trump Could Worsen Mideast Troubles

TEHRAN - Iran has warned that the policies pursued by the administration of US President Donald Trump could deteriorate the current conflicts in the Middle East. Iran's First Vice President Esh'aq Jahangiri told a summit of the Developing-8 (D-8) countries in Istanbul that the world specifically needed to be aware about the consequences of what he described as "the expansionist and extremist aspirations" of America as well as Israel on the stability of the region. Jahangiri said the unilateralism and racism as expressed in viewpoints of certain leaders were things of the past. This is while the world is already living in the age

of democracy, multiculturalism, tolerance and co-existence, he emphasized.

The Iranian official said his country strongly supported dialog as the best solution to numerous problems that the world was grappling with, adding that interactions among all nations to resolve tensions based on common interests as well as the principle of mutual win needed to be promoted.

"We should never let militaristic and violent policies replace dialog-based solutions," added the Iranian official, warning that such policies could put people living in Muslim countries at the risk of "death and destruction". (Presstv)

Mamnoon for Stronger Bilateral Ties with Malaysia, Jordan and Vietnam

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain Friday said Pakistan desires stronger bilateral ties with Malaysia, Jordan and Vietnam and called for a greater focus on trade, investment and people-to-people ties.

The President expressed the desire in his separate meetings with the outgoing High Commissioner of Malaysia Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar, outgoing Ambassador of Vietnam Nguyen Xuan Luu and Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Jordan Major General (Retd.) Junaid Rehmat, here at the Aiwani-e-Sadr, Islamabad. The President said Malaysia has wit-

nessed remarkable progress in various sectors and termed it an example for other countries. He said Pakistan and Malaysia were close friends and their ties were based on shared beliefs, heritage and history. President Mamnoon expressed hope that the new Ambassador of Malaysia would work for further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two countries, and follow in the footsteps of the outgoing Ambassador Dr. Hasrul Sani bin Mujtabar. The President said Malaysia can benefit from economical and quality products of Pakistan. (Agencies)

Turkmenistan, China Expanding Co-Op in Innovations Field

ASHGABAT - The Turkmenistan-China innovation forum is planned to be held in China in 2018, Turkmenistan's Watan newspaper reported Friday. The first joint forum, "Innovations, new technologies and issues of their introduction into production" was held in Ashgabat last week. Based on its results, the parties agreed to expand the legal basis of the long-term scientific partnership and create an intergovernmental commission for cooperation in the field of science and innovative technologies. The forum was attended by representatives of the

Ministry of Science and Technology of China, Department of Science and Technology of the Chinese provinces of Hubei and Guangdong, Asia-Europe forum, as well as 11 research institutes and four universities of China.

Turkmenistan was represented by 468 scientists and specialists from 57 scientific and educational institutions of the country. During the conference, the participants discussed the development of seismology, chemistry, livestock and veterinary science, solar energy, biology, agricultural technology. (Trend)

Top Nuke Envoys of S. Korea, U.S. Meet to Discuss DPRK Issue

SEOUL - Top nuclear envoys of South Korea and the United States met in Seoul Friday to discuss issues concerning the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s nuclear program. Lee Do-hoon, South Korea's special representative for Korean Peninsula peace and security affairs, met with visiting U.S. nuclear envoy Joseph Yun, according to Seoul's foreign ministry. Lee and Yun represent their respective countries at the currently suspended six-party talks aimed

at denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula. The talks, which involved South Korea, the DPRK, China, the United States, Russia and Japan, was last held in late 2008. During the bilateral meeting, the diplomats made an in-depth discussion on ways to encourage the DPRK to accept denuclearization talks while stably managing the peninsula's situations through diplomatic efforts including sanctions and pressure, the Seoul ministry said. (Xinhua)

WASHINGTON - European Union leaders on Thursday said they'd reaffirm the Iran nuke deal, despite U.S. President Donald Trump's refusal to recertify the accord. But if Washington pulls out, Iran said it would shred the deal. That leaves the deal in limbo, experts told Xinhua. According to European press reports on Thursday, EU leaders will reaffirm that they are committed to the international accord of world powers. That sits in sharp contrast to Trump's

U.S., EU at Odds over Uncertain Iran Deal

stance on the international agreement. Earlier this month, Trump failed to certify that Iran was playing by the rules stipulated in the international accord on Iran's nuclear program, and contended that the Islamic republic is in defiance of the agreement. Trump has given Congress 60 days to decide whether to reinstate the sanctions on Iran that were lifted under the 2015 accord. Trump's move neither scraps the deal not saves it, and there's a



chance the international accord may remain intact. But the deal's future remains uncertain, and some believe it risks falling apart.

"The nuclear agreement is in danger of collapsing," Jim Phillips, senior Middle East research fellow at the Heritage Foundation, told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

UN Chief to Meet Trump to Discuss UN Reform



UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres will travel to Washington, D.C. and meet U.S. President Donald Trump at

the White House on Friday, a UN spokesman announced. The spokesman, Stephane Dujarric, would not give details of the

meeting. "I don't think it will surprise you if I will tell you that issues of mutual concern will be discussed," he told a briefing at UN Headquarters on Thursday. "I have no doubt UN reform will be discussed," he said, adding that he was not sure whether U.S. payments to the United Nations will be touched upon. The meeting has been in the offing for quite some time as the two men agreed to meet formally when Guterres dropped by the Oval Office several months ago.

"Scheduling this thing is no easy task," said Dujarric. With Trump's election, relations between the United Nations and the White House has not been easy. The Trump administration has announced withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on climate change, a global compact dear to the United Nations, and from the UN cultural body of UNESCO. Washington has also threatened to pull out of the world body's Human Rights Council. (Xinhua)

G7 Ministers, Internet Execs Gather at Italy-Hosted Security Summit

ROME - The interior ministers of the Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations gathered Thursday on Italy's Ischia island facing the Gulf of Naples ahead of a security and counterterrorism summit on Friday. The agenda will focus on preventing extremist propaganda and recruitment on the internet and combating foreign fighters, or radicalized Europeans who joined the ranks of so-called Islamic State (ISIS) in Iraq and Syria, Italy's Interior

Ministry said in a statement. Foreign fighters are expected to try to return to Europe, where they could pose a threat to their EU home countries, as ISIS has been largely defeated in Syria and Iraq. The foreign fighters are often radicalized and recruited on the internet, which is why executives from leading social media companies have also been invited to Ischia. The summit begins early Friday morning and ends in the early afternoon. (Xinhua)

France's Macron: Trump Pushes EU Closer Together

BRUSSELS - French President Emmanuel Macron says the uncertainty about U.S. President Donald Trump's foreign policies has made European countries closer. Macron said at a European Union summit on Friday that Trump's actions "reinforce the need for unity and clarity" from the EU. The French leader says a united voice is important for international discussions about Iran and North Korea's nuclear activities, and about Europe's own defense programs. Macron said a "less-clear strategy from the United States" under Trump has "catalyzed" EU cooperation. Leaders of EU member countries reaffirmed at their summit support for the accord curbing Iran's nuclear activities. (AP)

India Looks forward to U.S. Secretary of State's Visit: Official

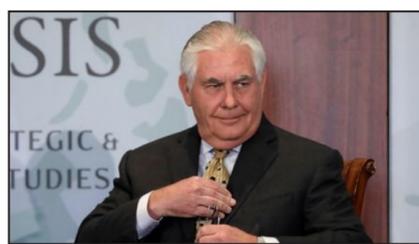
NEW DELHI - India said on Friday that it's looking forward to U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson's visit to this country next week and also welcomed his recent statement on the existing bilateral ties between the two nations.

"We look forward to welcoming him in India next week for detailed discussions on further strengthening of our partnership," Indian External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told the media.

Describing Tillerson's statement as a positive factor for enhancement of bilateral relations in the future, the spokesperson said: "Secretary Tillerson has made a significant policy statement on India-U.S. relations and its future." (Xinhua)

U.S. will Not Interfere in EU Trade with Iran: Tillerson

WASHINGTON - The United States does not aim to impede European trade and business transactions with Iran despite President Donald Trump's decision last week to decertify the 2015 nuclear agreement, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson told the Wall Street Journal. European Union leaders in Brussels on Thursday highlighted the need to protect their companies and investors dealing with Iran from any adverse effects should Washington reinstate sanctions against Iran, officials said. "The



president's been pretty clear that it's not his intent to interfere with business deals that the Europeans may have under way with Iran," Tillerson told the Journal in an interview Thursday. "He's said it clearly: 'That's fine. You guys do what you

want to do.'" Trump last week adopted a harsh new approach to Iran by refusing to certify its compliance with the nuclear deal struck with the United States and five other powers including Britain, France and Germany. (Reuters)

Britain will Honor Financial Commitments to EU: May

BRUSSELS - British Prime Minister Theresa May reassured her European colleagues Friday by reiterating Britain's financial commitments to the European Union (EU), urging the EU27 to give green light to the second phase of Brexit talks at an early date. May made the remarks at a press conference while leaders of the EU27 holding a close-door roundtable meeting over Brexit without Britain.

"Britain will go through the financial commitments line by line," said May, without giving a specific figure of the "devoice bill". "We are within touch-

ing distance of reaching a deal on citizen rights ... whatever happens we want EU citizens to stay (in Britain)," said May.

She as usual expressed her optimism on the future talks. "I am ambitious for our future ... We must give an outcome that works for all," said May, appealing for new dynamic around Brexit talks.

May arrived in Brussels on Thursday to join her European colleagues for the autumn EU Summit. Prior to her trip, May on Thursday sought to reassure the 3 million EU nationals living in Britain that they would be treated fairly and at par with Britons. (Xinhua)

Tusk Hopes to Enter 2nd-Phase of Brexit Talks in December

BRUSSELS - The Brexit talks have not yet reached any sufficient progress but the progress cannot be denied, European Council President Donald Tusk told reporters on Friday, hoping that the Brexit talks would enter into second phase in December.

His remarks came in a press conference co-chaired with European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker after a close-door EU27 roundtable meeting on Brexit without Britain.

"I don't work for a no deal scenario and I want to reach good deal with Britain," said Juncker at the conference. In a conclusion document on Brexit issued by the EU27 following the close-door meeting, the European Council welcomed the progress made regarding citizens' rights and invites the negotiator to build on the convergence achieved to provide the necessary legal certainty and guarantees to all concerned citizens and their family members.

Those citizens and their family members shall be able to exercise directly their rights derived from EU law and protected by the withdrawal agreement, including through smooth and simple administrative procedures and the role of the Court of justice of the EU, said the document.

As regard Ireland, the Council acknowledged that there has been some progress on convergence on principles and objectives regarding protection of the Good Friday Agreement and maintenance of the Common Travel Area. (Xinhua)