

U.S. Cannot be Called “Civilized” Country: Erdogan

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday said he would not call the United States “a civilized country” after detention warrants were issued for his bodyguards over a brawl during his visit in May. “If America issues detention warrants for my 13 bodyguards in a country where I went upon invitation, sorry but I cannot call this country civilized,” Erdogan said at a forum in Istanbul. More than 10 people were injured in a brawl with protesters in May outside the Turkish embassy in Washington D.C. that involved Erdogan’s bodyguards. In June, the U.S.



authorities issued detention warrants for a total of 16 people including the bodyguards over the incident, sparking repeated denunciations from the president and others. Erdogan noted that two of the bodyguards in question were responsible for the protection of his wife and were not even on the scene at the time. The president had said that the protest was organized by members of the outlawed Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK) and a network led by Turkish cleric Fetullah Gulen, who is living in the United States and accused by Ankara of orchestrating a failed coup in Turkey last year. (Xinhua)

Kremlin Says Putin, Erdogan Discuss Syria in Phone Call

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Tayyip Erdogan discussed an upcoming meeting of the Astana process on the Syrian conflict in the Kazakh capital in late October, the Kremlin said on Saturday. During their phone conversation, Putin and Erdogan talked about joint efforts within the Astana process, including the creation of “de-escalation zones” in Syria, and further coordination towards resolving the Syria situation, the Kremlin said in

a statement. The Astana talks are brokered by Russia, Turkey and Iran. In mid-September, the three countries agreed to post observers on the edge of a de-escalation zone in northern Syria’s Idlib region largely controlled by Islamist militants. Putin and Erdogan also said the agreements reached between Russia and Turkey in Ankara in late September were being successfully implemented, particularly in trade and economic relations. (Reuters)

Russia Accuses US of Undermining Global Strategic Stability

MOSCOW - The United States and its allies attempted to gain military advantages and use force to reach “egoistic geopolitical goals,” which will seriously undermine global strategic stability, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday. “The United States and its allies in Europe, the Asia-Pacific and other regions seek to create a global missile defense system and move its elements closer to Russian borders,” he said at the Moscow 2017 Non-Proliferation Conference.

Russia’s calls for joint work on containing such risks in Europe remain unanswered, he said. Moscow is also monitoring with concern the implementation of plans to modernize nuclear weapons deployed in Europe, Lavrov said. The move, together with efforts of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) countries to adopt dual-use delivery vehicles fit for conventional and nuclear munitions,



could lower the threshold of using nuclear weapons, he said. He said that Russia has consistently demanded the withdrawal of U.S.

nuclear weapons to its homeland and the cessation of NATO training of non-nuclear countries to use nuclear weapons. (Xinhua)

G7 Gov’ts, Internet Companies in “Grand Alliance” Against Terrorism



ROME - The Group of Seven (G7) industrialized nations, the European Union (EU), and four internet giants have entered into a “grand alliance” to combat terrorism, Italian

Interior Minister Marco Minniti announced Friday. Representatives from Facebook, Google, Microsoft, and Twitter met with G7 interior ministers and

EU commissioners at a two-day summit on Italy’s Ischia island. They were there to discuss how to crack down on terrorist propaganda on the internet, where jihadi groups disseminate their ideology, raise funds, recruit and incite followers to commit atrocities, and provide instructions on how to carry out attacks. “Today, a grand alliance between governments and large-scale (internet service) providers has

taken its first steps,” Italian news agency ANSA quoted Minniti as saying at the close of the summit. “We can win this battle against the malware of terror and hatred,” Minniti said. Internet companies will “guarantee decisive actions to make their platforms more hostile to terrorism,” including “swift identification and removal of terrorist content”, according to a final statement published by Italy’s interior ministry, which chaired the G7 Ischia summit. (Xinhua)

Russia Insists on Diplomatic Solution to Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue

MOSCOW - Russia insists on a diplomatic settlement of the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Friday. “There is no alternative to diplomatic methods on the basis of dialogue among all interested parties,” he said in an address to the Moscow 2017 Non-Proliferation Conference. “The main task at the current stage is to prevent a military conflict, which will imminently lead to a large-scale humanitarian, economic and environmental catastrophe,” he

said. Lavrov called on all involved parties to exercise restraint and support the roadmap proposed by Russia and China in July, which suggests a dual-track approach of advancing denuclearization while at the same time establishing a peace mechanism. Meanwhile, the two countries demand that the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPRK) suspend its nuclear and missile activities in exchange for the suspension of U.S.-South Korean military exercises. (Xinhua)

APEC Finance Ministers Committed to Sustainable, Inclusive Growth

HANOI - At their 24th meeting on Saturday in Vietnam, finance ministers of the 21 economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) adopted a joint ministerial statement, pledging to use all policy tools, monetary, fiscal and structural, individually and collectively to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth.

At the 2017 APEC Finance Ministers’ Meeting in central Hoi An city with the presence of Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc, the ministers centered their discussions on global and regional economy, Cebu Action Plan (CAP), long-term investment in infrastructure, base erosion and profit shifting, disaster risk financing and insurance, and financial inclusion.

According to the joint ministerial statement, fiscal policy tailored to member economy’s circumstances should be used flexibly and be growth friendly, while ensuring that the public debt as a share of GDP is on sustainable path.

Monetary policy should continue to support economic activity and ensure price stability, consistent with central banks’ mandates.

Strong fundamentals, sound policies, and a resilient international monetary system are essential to the stability of exchange rates, contributing to strong and sustainable growth and investment.

The ministers reaffirmed the importance of the APEC Finance Ministers’ Process as an active forum for fostering policy cooperation and exchange of experience among economies in the region. (Xinhua)

Guterres Calls for “Very Solid Cooperation” Between U.S., UN

WASHINGTON - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said here on Friday that the United Nations needs strong U.S. engagement and a “very solid cooperation” between the United States and the United Nations. Guterres made the remarks while meeting with U.S. President Donald Trump at the White House. Guterres noted that he is “a true believer that we live in a messy world but we need a strong, reformed and modernized UN.” For his part, Trump said that the United Nations has tremendous potential, but it has not been used over the years



“nearly as it should be.” Trump described the United Nations as “almost a power to bring people together like nothing else,” adding he has “a feeling that things are going to happen with the United Nations like you haven’t seen before.” “We’ve become friends,” said Trump. “You need talent, and he’s got the tal-

ent,” he said, gesturing to Guterres. “We’ll see what happens. I’ll report back to you in about seven years.” The White House host has been at odds with the United Nations ever since his presidential campaign. He hammered the United Nations for what he called bureaucracy and “mismanagement.” (Xinhua)

Trump Notes Support for Improving UN Efficiency in Meeting with Guterres

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump said here Friday that he supports the efforts of UN chief Antonio Guterres to enhance the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations. According to a White House press release, Trump and the UN secretary-general discussed issues of mutual interest, including the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula, Syria, Iraq, Myanmar and UN reform.

The two committed to working together to address the issues and other com-

mon challenges in the coming months. Trump has been at odds with the United Nations ever since his presidential campaign. He hammered the United Nations for what he called bureaucracy and “mismanagement.” Trump’s latest decision to pull the United States out of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), a UN watchdog enduring snowballing U.S. arrears for over a decade, has raised eyebrows across the world. (Xinhua)

US Says Vote Likely Monday on Syrian Chemical Weapons Probe

UNITED NATIONS - The United States put a resolution that would extend the work of inspectors seeking to determine who is responsible for chemical weapons attacks in Syria into a final form and said a vote is likely on Monday.

The U.S. Mission to the United Nations sent reporters the brief final text of the resolution late Friday which would extend the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism, known as the JIM, for another year.

Russia, a close ally of Syria, has criticized the JIM and it is unclear whether it would veto the resolution. Russian Ambassador Mikhail Ulyanov, who heads the country’s delegation to the General Assembly’s disarmament committee, told U.N. reporters on Oct. 13 that Russia wants to wait for a JIM report, expected Oct. 26, on the chemical attack in Khan Sheikhoun that killed over 90 people before making a decision.

The April 4 attack sparked outrage around the world as photos and video of the aftermath, including quivering children dying on camera, were widely broadcast.

U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley said Wednesday there is “overwhelming support” among Security Council members to extend the JIM mandate but she said Russia wants to see if the JIM blames Syria for the Khan Sheikhoun attack, in which case it will have no faith in the investigative body. (AP)

Neighbor News

China to Achieve Annual Economic Growth Target

BEIJING - China’s economy is expected to attain or surpass the government’s annual growth target of around 6.5 percent this year, a chief economic planner said Saturday. “The growth target of around 6.5 percent is expected to be fulfilled successfully, and it’s possible to achieve even better results,” said He Lifeng, head of the National Development and Reform Commission, at a press conference on the sidelines of the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China. The country’s gross do-

mestic product (GDP) value will exceed 80 trillion yuan (about 12.1 trillion U.S. dollars) this year, he said. The economy has seen a stronger trend of steady growth with structural progress and positive outlook this year, he told reporters. China’s GDP expanded 6.9 percent year on year to 59.3 trillion yuan in the first three quarters, holding steady from a 6.9-percent growth in the first half despite a slightly slower 6.8-percent increase in the third quarter, official data show. (Xinhua)

Iran Rules out Talks with Europe over Iran’s Missile Program

TEHRAN - A senior Iranian army commander on Saturday discouraged the European states from what he called “meddling” with Iran’s missile program, semi-official Fars news agency reported. “As the Islamic Republic of Iran has stated before, it does not accept to negotiate over its missile issues,” Deputy Chief of Staff of Iran’s Armed Forces, Brigadier General Massoud Jazayeri, said. “We are against any talks with the foreign sides on this issue,” Jazayeri was quoted as saying. There is no international convention or agreement to put restrictions on missile production and development by the states, he said, adding that

“therefore, we strictly advise and notify all sides to stay away from this issue.” He also dismissed the United States and some European states’ demands for talks with Iran on the regional issues, specially Syria, and said such demands are “illegal” and “illegitimate.” Jazayeri made the remarks after Iran’s Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Thursday blasted the recent remarks by U.S. President Donald Trump against the IRGC and Iran’s missile program. Trump suggested that the Iranian missiles might be used for carrying a nuclear warhead, the allegations which Iran has rejected. (Xinhua)

Nawaz Sharif Demands Recovery of Social Media Activists

ISLAMABAD - Condemning incidences of PML-N’s social media supporters going missing, former prime minister Nawaz Sharif has demanded that the interior ministry ensure the recovery of missing activists in a statement released through the party’s Twitter account on Saturday. Respect for the freedom of speech, including on social media, is the constitutional responsibility of the government and suppressing political views of opponents is condemnable, Sharif said in the statement. (Monitoring Desk)

Turkmenistan, Tajikistan Interested in Developing Relations in Energy, Transport Sectors

ASHGABAT - The delegation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan was on in Dushanbe with a working visit October 18-20. Within the framework of the visit, meetings with the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Tajikistan Sirojiddin Aslov and his deputy Nizomiddin Zohidi were held. “During the talks, special attention was paid to the preparation of high-level visits”, said in the statement of the Turkmen MFA. The sides

noted the importance of cooperation within authoritative international organizations. During the discussion of issues of trade and economic cooperation, the sides expressed interest in developing relations in the energy and transport sectors. Earlier it was reported that the construction of the railroad Turkmenistan-Afghanistan-Tajikistan is indicative in cooperation between the two countries. (Trend)

Uzbekistan Actively Participating in SCO’s Development

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan actively participates in the development of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), the Uzbek Foreign Ministry reported Saturday. On Oct. 20, Tashkent hosted the fifth meeting of the ministers of justice of the SCO. In addition, on

Oct. 25-27, it is planned to hold a meeting of chairmen of the supreme courts of the SCO states in Tashkent. The Uzbek side informed participants of a regular meeting of the SCO Council of National Coordinators, held in Beijing Oct.17-20, about these events.