

# Asia Pacific Defense Ministers Strongly Committed to Eradicating Terrorists

MANILA - The defense ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and eight dialogue partners, namely China, Japan, South Korea, the United States, Russia, India, Australia and New Zealand, have reaffirmed their "strong commitment" to eradicating extremist groups in the region, the Philippine defense chief said on Wednesday.

In a chairman's statement issued on the following day of the 4th ASEAN Defense Ministers' Meeting-Plus (ADMM-Plus) held on Tuesday, Philippine Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said the 18 ministers agreed that "the emergence of extremist and



terrorist groups is not only a problem of few countries but the whole region."

"The meeting also expressed strong commitment to contribute in eradicating extremist groups and in the de-radicalization efforts to prevent proliferation of such groups," said Lorenzana, who chaired the 11th ADMM and the 4th ADMM-Plus, as the Philippines is chair of ASEAN this year. Terrorism and violent extremism were top on the agenda, the statement reads, adding the ministers also exchanged views on maritime security, non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, cyber security and humanitarian assistance and disaster relief. (Xinhua)

## U.S. "Disappointed" at Russia Veto of Investigation into Chemical Weapon Use in Syria

WASHINGTON - The United States said on Tuesday it was "disappointed" at Russia's veto of a UN Security Council draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of an independent investigation mechanism, which was tasked to determine who was responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

"We are very disappointed that Russia put what it considered to be political considerations over the Syrian people," said U.S. State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert at a daily briefing. The draft reso-

lution sponsored by the United States sought to extend the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for another year. Among the 15 members of the Security Council, Russia and Bolivia voted against the measure. China and Kazakhstan abstained, and 11 countries voted to extend. Russia had indicated that it would veto that measure. Nauert noted at the briefing. (Xinhua)

## Russia Vetoes Extension of Investigative Mechanism for Chemical Weapons Use in Syria

UNITED NATIONS - Russia on Tuesday vetoed a UN Security Council draft resolution on the extension of the mandate of an independent investigation mechanism, which was tasked to determine who was responsible for the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The draft resolution sponsored by the United States sought to extend the mandate of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM) of the United Nations and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons for another year. Among the 15 members of the Security Council, 11 were in favor, two were against, and another two abstained.

Russia is a permanent member of the Security Council, its "no" vote means that the draft resolution was rejected. Bolivia also voted against the draft resolution. China and Kazakhstan abstained. Prior to the vote, Russian



ambassador to the United Nations Vasily Nebenzia proposed a postponement till Nov. 7, arguing that the extension of JIM's mandate should be discussed after the publication of its report, which is only two days away. He told the council that a hasty vote was intended to "dishonor" Russia. (Xinhua)

## UN Officials Call for More Action to Help Disaster Affected States



UNITED NATIONS - Senior United Nations (UN) officials on Tuesday called for more action to help states affected by recent natural disasters return to development. As the UN and the international community step up efforts to assist countries affected by hurricanes and earthquakes, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) held a special meeting on the "Aftermath of recent

hurricanes: achieving a risk-informed and resilient 2030 Agenda," to discuss the current situation along with the economic, social and environmental impacts on those affected. Hurricanes Irma, Harvey and Maria may be over, but the devastating impact they had on the countries in their path continues as well as the effects of successive earthquakes in Mexico, said senior United Nations officials Tuesday, calling for more action at all levels to manage disaster and climate risks and prepare for the

future extreme weather events. "These disasters led to tragic loss of lives, displaced people, damaged infrastructure and homes, and disrupted livelihoods in both developed and developing countries," said Marie Chatardova, president of ECOSOC. "We have seen how inequalities exacerbated people's exposure to the impact of disaster," she said, noting that how easily development gains can be erased if a risk-informed, resilient 2030 Agenda is not pursued. (Xinhua)

## US, Gulf Allies Sanction Yemenis Suspected of Terror Links

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia - In a coordinated move with Arab Gulf allies, the U.S. has announced new sanctions against nine Yemenis and two Yemeni entities suspected of financing terrorist groups.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin announced the designations on Tuesday during a speech at an investment conference in the capital, Riyadh. Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, Kuwait and Bahrain jointly agreed to the

sanctions list with Washington in what Mnuchin describes as "the largest ever multilateral designation in the Middle East."

The announcement represents a rare moment of coordination among the oil-rich Gulf states nearly four months after Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain, along with Egypt, severed ties with Qatar over its foreign policies.

Mnuchin is scheduled to visit the UAE, Qatar and Jerusalem during his Mideast trip. (AP)

## Clinton Campaign, Democrats Help Fund Research for Trump Dossier: U.S. Media

WASHINGTON - Hillary Clinton's 2016 presidential campaign and the Democratic National Committee (DNC) helped fund research for a controversial dossier about U.S. President Donald Trump's alleged ties to Russia, according to U.S. media.

The Washington Post reported Tuesday that Marc Elias, a lawyer representing the Clinton campaign and the DNC, retained a private research firm called Fusion GPS in April 2016 to probe Trump's background.

The Clinton campaign and the DNC funded the firm's efforts through the end of October 2016, days before the Election Day on Nov. 8, according to the report.

In response, the DNC issued a statement Tuesday evening, distancing its current leadership from Fusion GPS.

"Tom Perez and the new leadership of the DNC were not involved in any decision-making regarding Fusion GPS, nor were they aware that Perkins Coie (an international law firm) was working with the organization," said the statement.

"But let's be clear, there is a serious federal investigation into the Trump campaign's ties to Russia, and the American public deserves to know what happened," the statement said.

Perez is the DNC chair, and Elias is the chair of Perkins Coie's political law practice.

The 35-page dossier created by the firm contains salacious unverified allegations against Trump. (Xinhua)

## German President Tells Putin: We Need to Work on our Relationship

MOSCOW - German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier told Russian President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday he was unhappy about the state of relations between Moscow and Berlin and that both sides needed to work to improve it.

The first visit to Russia by a German president since 2010 happened as relations remain strained over Russia's 2014 annexation of Crimea and a pro-Russian separatist uprising in eastern Ukraine, as well as German accusations of Russian meddling in its poli-



tics, something Moscow denies. "It's essential that we use this opportunity for us as presidents to continue our dialogue to try to improve our bilateral relations, the state of which we can't be happy about," Steinmeier told Putin at the start of talks.

"I'm convinced that we need to resist the alienation that has grown up between our countries in recent years and to do that we need to continue the dialogue and need long-term attempts from both sides to find solutions in crises." (Reuters)

## Erdogan Opponent Launches New Political Party in Turkey

ANKARA - A Turkish former interior minister once dubbed Turkey's Iron Lady and seen as a potentially strong challenger to President Recep Tayyip Erdogan launched a political party Wednesday after months of speculation. Meral Aksener delivered a defiant speech promising a "strong, happy" Turkey at the official launch of the İyi ("Good") Party in the capital Ankara. "We have hope. We have dreams. We want a rich Turkey. We have strength. We want a fair Turkey... We want a free society. We want a happy Turkey," she said during a spirited address to an audience waving Turkish

flags. She was cheered by thousands of supporters and founding party members in a hall surrounded by the party's blue and yellow sun logo and banners of modern Turkey founder Mustafa Kemal Atatürk. The party's slogan is "Turkey will be good". Aksener, 61, was a member of the opposition right-wing Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) until she was expelled in September 2016.

There has been frenzied talk of Aksener running against Erdogan in the presidential election in November 2019 when Turkey's parliamentary system will formally become an executive presidency. (AFP)

## UK Brexit Chief Says He Expects Talks to Go Down to the Wire

LONDON - Brexit negotiations with the European Union aren't expected to end until the last moment before the U.K. officially leaves the bloc in March 2019, a British minister said Wednesday.

The EU tends to make decisions "at the 59th minute of the 11th hour of the 11th day and so on, and that is precisely what I would expect to happen," Brexit Secretary David Davis said.

Negotiations between Britain and the EU have stalled over divorce terms, including the size of the bill Britain must pay to settle its commitments to the bloc. The U.K. is keen to start talking about future relations, a step the EU may agree to take in December.

Many U.K. businesses fear the consequences if Britain doesn't strike a deal by the March 2019 deadline and crashes out of the EU single market and customs union.

The EU side has said that in practice the negotiations will have to be finished even sooner, by the fall of 2018, to give the European Parliament and 27 national parliaments enough time to approve the deal by March 2019.

Davis told a committee of lawmakers that the last-minute negotiations would be "very high-stress, very exciting for everybody watching."

Opposition legislators accused him of undermining a government promise that Parliament will get to vote on any eventual deal with the EU.

Davis acknowledged that if a deal is made at the last minute, such a vote might come after Britain was already out of the bloc. (AP)

## Neighbor News

### Xi Vows Greater Contributions to Peace, Development for Humanity

BEIJING - Xi Jinping, general secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China (CPC), said Wednesday China will make new and greater contributions to peace and development for all humanity.

The CPC and the Chinese people have gone through trials and tribulations, said Xi, when leading a new top CPC leadership to meet the press.

"These experiences have taught us that peace is

precious and development must be valued," he told reporters.

"With confidence and pride, the Chinese people will be steadfast in upholding our country's sovereignty, security and development interests," he said.

Xi said China will work with other nations to build a global community with a shared future, and make new and greater contributions to the noble cause of peace and development for all humanity. (Xinhua)

### Governments' Term Completion Important to Address Public Issues: Abbasi

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Wednesday said completion of term by the democratic governments was important to effectively address the problems of the people.

Addressing a gathering here after inaugurating the Gilgit Baltistan University, the Prime Minister said the PML-N government was committed to serving the masses and had several development projects to its credit that proved that "it did not believe in making hollow promises".

The Prime Minister said the PML-N government was the only government which completed every single project it launched

in the interest of common man.

He said false pledges made by others for attracting mere votes did not make place in the hearts of people, however the PML-N always gave priority to prosperity of people by bringing improvement to their areas.

Prime Minister Abbasi said his government was committed to bring about a revolutionary change in the lives of people of Gilgit Baltistan.

He mentioned that he was in particular advised by former Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif to complete all the earlier launched development projects of GB. (Monitoring Desk)

### Iran, Russia Discuss Upcoming Astana Talks

TEHRAN - Russian President's special envoy for Syrian Affairs Alexander Lavrentiev in meeting with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Arab and African Affairs Hossein Jaber Ansari discussed the 7th round of Astana peace talks.

The Tuesday meeting was held to review the latest developments in Syria and also the agenda of the upcoming Astana talks.

Both sides also discussed the latest development in de-escalation zones in Syria and new suggestions for establishing sustainable peace in the country.

Some Western and Arab countries, led by the US,

caused scores of thousands of extremist terrorists, enjoying advanced weaponry and financial and intelligence support, to enter Syria 6 years ago, in order to bring down the Syrian government.

The anti-Syrian actions created tens of terrorist groups that resulted in massacre and displacement of hundreds of thousands of innocent people in Syria and Iraq, and also destruction of the two countries, but certain Western and Arab countries keep supporting the armed oppositions and terrorists.

To date, six rounds of negotiations on the Syria issue have been held in Astana, Kazakhstan. (IRNA)

### Russian Security Council Secretary to Visit Tajikistan

DUSHANBE - Secretary of the Russian Security Council Nikolai Patrushev will visit Dushanbe on October 29 to discuss cooperation issues with the Tajik side.

The Speaker of the Armenian Parliament will also hold talks with the Tajik President and Speakers of the Parliament of Tajikistan. (AKI)

made by President of the National Assembly of Armenia Ara Babloyan on October 29 to discuss cooperation issues with the Tajik side.

The Speaker of the Armenian Parliament will also hold talks with the Tajik President and Speakers of the Parliament of Tajikistan. (AKI)

### President of Uzbekistan Has Arrived in Turkey

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Turkey with a state visit at the invitation of the President of the Republic of Turkey Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

Deputy Prime Minister of the Republic of Turkey Bekir Bozdogan and other officials met the President of the Republic of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev at Esenboga international airport of Ankara.

The airport is decorated

with national flags of the two countries. A guard of honor was lined up in honor of the delegation of Uzbekistan.

As previously reported, issues of expansion of Uzbekistan - Turkey cooperation in political, trade-economic, investment, transport-communication and other fields will be discussed during high-level meetings, as well as views will be exchanged on regional and international issues. (Agencies)