

G20 Summit Concludes with Historic Consensus on World Growth

HANGZHOU - The 11th summit of the Group of 20 (G20) major economies concluded here on Monday, reaching extensive consensus on pursuing innovative, invigorated, interconnected and inclusive world economic growth.

"Held at a critical time for world economic growth and the transformation of G20, the Hangzhou summit attracted wide attention from the whole world and carried high expectations," Xi said at a press conference after the summit concluded.

From Sunday to Monday, leaders of G20 members, guest countries and international organizations exchanged views



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on topics including more effective global economic and financial governance, robust international trade and investment, inclusive and interconnected development.

They also discussed prominent issues affecting the world economy, including climate change, refugee, anti-terrorism financing and global public health.

Xi said at the closing meeting that leaders attending the summit decided to point the way and set the course for the world economy. "Facing current risks and challenges in the world economy, we will continue to reinforce macro policy communication and coordination," Xi said. (Xinhua)

US, Russia Fail to Reach Syria Deal

HANGZHOU - Top diplomats from the United States and Russia on Monday failed to reach a deal to ease fighting in Syria, with a senior State Department official saying differences remained. The official said a fresh round of crisis talks between Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on the margins of the G20 summit in Hangzhou had ended without agreement.

A deal to provide aid to Aleppo's ravaged civil-

ians and at least partially halt Russian and Syrian bombardments had looked likely on Sunday, before talks collapsed. US officials accused Russia of backtracking on already agreed issues which Washington refused to revisit. As so often in the five year conflict, which has killed around 300,000 people and forced millions to flee, the talks seemed overtaken by developments on the ground.

(Monitoring Desk)

Obama, Putin Meet on G20 Sidelines over Syria, Ukraine

HANGZHOU - U.S. President Barack Obama and his Russian counterpart, Vladimir Putin, met here Monday on the sidelines of the 11th Group of 20 summit to discuss the Syria and Ukraine issues. The two presidents talked for more than one hour, longer than planned, and discussed Syria and Ukraine issues, Russian media quoted a Kremlin spokesman as saying.

The United States and Russia have been trying to reach a deal over the



Syria crisis. Obama said Sunday that the two sides still have "grave differences," but there is still

possibility "to make some progress." U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and Russian

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, who met in this eastern Chinese city on ...*(More on P4)...(20)*

UN Calls for More Funding for Organic Farming in Africa

NAIROBI - The UN has called for increased funding for organic farming in Africa, which, it said, has rich potential but is increasingly under-funded. A survey conducted by the UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) revealed on Monday that organic farming offers an excellent and lucrative export opportunity for Africa, but access to finance is harder to come by than five years ago.

In the survey, 64 percent of organic farmers, exporters, and experts from 16

African countries said the situation had not changed while 23 percent said they felt that access to financing had become more restrictive in the last five years.

"Based on our survey, the most critical areas in terms of the need for external funding highlighted by stakeholders in organic agriculture were certification, the organization of smallholder farmers into production groups, marketing, and the purchase of equipment," Malick Kane and Henrique Pacini, ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

British Parliament to Debate Second Brexit Referendum Petition

LONDON - British members of parliament on Monday will debate a public petition calling for a second Brexit referendum which has so far attracted more than 4.1 million signatures. According to the schedule on the British Parliament website, the three-hour-long debate among members of the House of Commons will start at 4:30 p.m. local time.

The petition urges the government to implement a rule for another referendum since neither of the remain or leave vote in June's

Brexit referendum won over 60 percent with a turnout less than 75 percent.

The referendum saw the Leave campaign win by 52 percent to 48 percent with a turnout slightly over 71 percent. Over 30 million British voted.

British Prime Minister Theresa May has said that the decision of Brexit must be respected and "Brexit means Brexit."



According to the official response from British Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the Parliament petition website, the government believed that the

European Union Referendum Act, which Britain complies with, does not set a threshold for the result or for minimum turnout in a referendum. (Xinhua)

Attempted Suicide Bomber in Indonesia Linked with IS

JAKARTA - A would-be suicide bomber, who attacked a church in western Indonesia last month, has links with an IS leader in Syria as the group is trying to use a new modus operandi, police chief said on Monday.

The 17-year-old Ivan Ahmadi Hasugian had often contacted Bahrin Naim, the IS leader for Southeast Asia, before he attempted to blow himself up in Santa Yosep Catholic church in Medan, the provincial capital of North Sumatra, on Aug. 28, National Police Chief General Tito Karnavian said. "He (Ahmadi) has directly contacted Bahrin Naim who is in Raqqa of Syria," he told lawmakers in a hearing at the parliament building. The general revealed that the church attack was plotted in a new style. The IS group recruits a new member aged below 18 years and directly teaches the young militant the way of assembling bomb and launching a strike, said Karnavian.

"This is a new phenomenon by recruiting a teenager under 18 years old," he added. (Xinhua)

Russia Starts Kavkaz-2016 Major Military Drills

MOSCOW - Russia launched on Monday the Strategic Kavkaz-2016 military drills, involving 12,500 troops, warplanes, combat vehicles and ships in the country's Southern Military District, the Russian Defense Ministry said.

"The Kavkaz-2016 is the final stage of a series of special exercises for military command bodies and snap inspections of combat readiness of troops in 2016, which takes place in the Southern Military District, the Black and Caspian Seas on September 5-10," the ministry said in a state-



ment. During the exercises, all levels of command and control bodies will be tested using the latest equipment, and tactical simulation of fighting will be rehearsed using

new types of weapons, military equipment and control systems, it said. Russia finished a large-scale snap drill involving three of its four military districts in late August. (Xinhua)

Hungary, Serbia Agree to Jointly Prevent Illegal Migrations

BELGRADE - Hungary will assist Serbia in protecting its southern borders as the migrant crisis is likely to repeat in the following months, Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban and his Serbian counterpart Aleksandar Vucic agreed here on Monday.

The two prime ministers expressed their readiness to cooperate in the fight against illegal migration in the future during a press conference.

Vucic said Hungarian army and police will assist their Serbian colleagues at Serbia's border with Bulgaria in the same way as the two countries protected Ser-

bia's border with Macedonia. "We see Hungary as a friendly country and any form of technological, technical as well as personnel support is welcome," he said.

Vucic said Serbia will not accept more illegal migrants, noting that the "situation is different from the beginning of the (migrant) crisis" as more than 80 percent of the migrants now are economic ones, coming from Afghanistan.

"We will show solidarity and humanity as a government -- but we cannot accept any more illegal migrants," Vucic said. (Xinhua)

North Korea Fires Three Ballistic Missiles off East Coast: Seoul

SEOUL - North Korea fired three ballistic missiles off its east coast Monday, Seoul said, a new show of force that comes as top world leaders meet at the G20 summit in China.

The missiles were fired into the Sea of Japan (East Sea) from the North's Hwangju county at around 0300 GMT, a defence ministry spokesman said, more sabre-rattling that follows a submarine-launched ballistic missile

test some two weeks ago. "They are speculated to be Rodong missiles with a range of 1,000 kilometres and were fired without navigational warning to Japan," the spokesman said in a statement.

"North Korea's ballistic missile launch is a direct violation of UN Security Council resolutions aimed at showing off its nuclear and missile capabilities during the G20 summit," he added.

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Death Toll of Syria's Tartus City Twin Bombings Rises to 20

DAMASCUS - At least 20 people were killed and 36 others wounded in twin bombings that rocked a checkpoint at the entrance of Syria's coastal city of Tartus on Monday, Syrian national TV said.

An explosive-laden vehicle was detonated at the checkpoint of the entrance of Tartus, when it was discovered by military personnel, said the report.

Another explosion followed when a suicide

bomber detonated his explosive belt among a crowd who gathered to help the wounded in the first blast, said the report.

The suicide car bomber had apparently planned to detonate inside the city but did so at the entrance after he was discovered by the authorities, the report said.

Both bombers, wearing military uniforms, were disguised as members of government troops, the military said. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China, Finland Agree to Expand Military Ties

BEIJING - Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan pledged Monday to maintain high-level military exchanges and cooperation with Finland in a meeting with his Finnish counterpart Jussi Niinisto in Beijing.

Chang called China and Finland good friends and partners, and lauded bilateral ties as a paradigm of mutually-beneficial cooperation between countries with different national conditions and social systems.

The militaries have maintained close high-level contact, Chang said, adding that cooperation in areas of ex-

pertise had improved and exchanges in various areas and at different levels had been enhanced.

He said the Chinese side was ready to maintain military exchanges and cooperation with the Finnish side at a high level, and make contributions to in-depth development of ties.

Niinisto said China is a very important cooperation partner of Finland, and that bilateral defense cooperation has a huge potential.

He said Finland was ready to improve exchanges and cooperation in such areas as personnel training and military drills. (Xinhua)

Belarus, Kazakhstan Assure Support for Pakistan's Nuclear Suppliers Group Bid

ISLAMABAD - Special Assistant to the Pakistani Prime Minister on Foreign Affairs Tariq Fatemi said on Monday Belarus and Kazakhstan have assured to support Pakistan's bid for membership in the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG), reported Radio Pakistan. Fatemi, in an interview, said Pakistan is expanding upon its relations with different countries including Russian and central Asian states.

He added that the president of Belarus would

also visit Pakistan next month.

Fatemi also sought Belgium's support for Pakistan's NSG membership. The special assistant on foreign affairs reiterated that Pakistan's application for NSG is based on technical experience, capability and commitment to nuclear safety and security.

The need for adopting a non-discriminatory and objective approach was also emphasised during the Belgium visit.

(Monitoring Desk)

Iran, Britain Upgrade Ties to Ambassador Level after 5 Years

TEHRAN - Iran and Britain have reportedly exchanged ambassadors for the first time since 2011 in another sign of warming relations between the two countries.

The Islamic Republic named Hamid Baeidinejad, the director general for political and international security affairs at Iran's Foreign Ministry, as its new ambassador to Britain, an informed source said on Monday. Baeidinejad had also been a senior member of the Iranian negotiating team with the P5+1 group of countries which led to striking a historical nuclear agree-

ment, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), on July 14, 2015.

"On Monday evening, Hamid Baeidinejad, our country's new Ambassador to Britain and Nicholas Hopton, the new British ambassador to Tehran, appeared at the countries' foreign ministries simultaneously and met with the two foreign ministers and handed over a copy of their credentials to them," the source at the Iranian Foreign Ministry said. Hopton had previously served as Britain's ambassador to Qatar and Yemen. (Presstv)

Uzbekistan Keen for Joint Ventures, Investment in Pakistan

ISLAMABAD - A 10-member delegation of Uzbekistan on Monday showed keen interest for joint ventures and investment in Pakistan.

Uzbekistan was quite rich in natural resources including copper and gold and Pakistan could get good benefits for its economy by enhancing cooperation with Uzbekistan.

This was stated by Nodir Atajanov, Deputy Chairman, Uz Agro Sanoatmash Holding during his visit to Islamabad Chamber of Commerce & Industry (CCI) here.

The delegation was representing various sectors including agriculture machinery, power production, chemical and petrochemical industry, automobiles, building and plastic material. Nodir Atajanov said the purpose of Uz-

bek delegation's visit to Pakistan was to explore possibilities of joint ventures and investment in areas of interest.

He hoped their visit to Pakistan would open up many new avenues of cooperation between the two countries. The delegation members gave a detailed presentation of their products. In his welcome address, Atif Ikram Sheikh, President, ICCI said, the bilateral trade of about US\$ 24 million between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was quite low and serious efforts from both sides were needed to improve it. He said agriculture, textile, energy, exploration of mineral resources, chemicals, pharmaceutical, tourism and many other areas offered good potential of mutual cooperation between Pakistan and Uzbekistan. (APP)