

Nuclear Threat, Humanitarian Crisis, Climate Change World's Worst Crises: UN Chief

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was moved on Tuesday to condemn the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea (DPRK) recent nuclear test, sectarianism in Myanmar and to issue a call to "get serious" on climate change after unprecedented natural disasters spanning the globe. On the DPRK, he told reporters at UN Headquarters, "Let us promote the dialogue and the communication necessary to avoid miscalculation and misunderstanding" that confrontation "may lead to unintended consequences." The UN chief spoke on three most pressing issues



the world faces in the run up to UN General Assembly annual General Debate that opens in two weeks.

Guterres said, "The solution must be political," and warned, "the potential consequences of military action are too horrific." "As Secretary-General, I'm ready to support any efforts toward a peaceful solution of this alarming situation," he said.

When asked what is the most serious threat in today's world, the UN chief said it was "the nuclear threat in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea." (Xinhua)

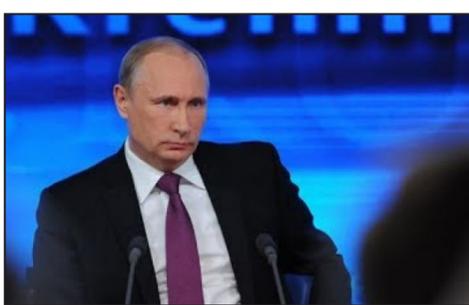
BRICS Summit "Roadmap" to Boost Cooperation Among Developing States

CAIRO - The latest BRICS summit in China achieved a noticeable success and managed to provide a roadmap for boosting cooperation among developing countries, said Egyptian experts. The ninth summit of the bloc including Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa was held on Sept. 3-5 in southeastern Chinese coastal city of Xiamen, with the participation of five developing states, namely, Egypt, Guinea, Mexico, Thailand and Tajikistan at the invitation of China to con-

vene for the Dialogue of Emerging Market and Developing Countries on the sidelines of the event. A BRICS Business Forum was also held on the sidelines of the summit with the participation of some 1,200 heads and representatives of about 600 companies, business organizations and financial institutions. "Being held in China helped make it a success, for China provided it with all means of success as it did with the preceding G20 summit last year," the ex-diplomat told Xinhua. (Xinhua)

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia - Russia does not recognize the nuclear status of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as its missile program threatens the security in Northeast Asia, Russian President Vladimir Putin said Wednesday. During the press conference following a meeting with his South Korean counterpart, Moon Jae-in, on the sidelines of the Eastern Economic Forum (EEF), Putin reiterated Moscow's stance of opposing the DPRK's missile program, saying it

extensively violates U.N. Security Council resolutions, undermines the global non-proliferation regime, and threatens security in Northeast Asia. Meanwhile, the Russian president noted that hostility will not help solve the Korean Peninsula issue. "Clearly, it is impossible to solve the Korean Peninsula issue by sanctions and pressure... There is no sense in giving in to emotions and pushing the DPRK into a



corner," Putin said. "Now more than ever, everyone needs to be calm and avoid steps that lead to an escalation of tension," he added.

Putin said Russia and China have come up with proposals on solving the issue under the framework of a joint "road map". (Xinhua)

Russia does not Accept DPRK's Nuclear Status: Putin

EU's Top Court Dismisses Challenge against Refugee Relocation Scheme



BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU)'s top court on Wednesday buttressed the bloc's relocation scheme set up two years ago, dealing a

resounding blow to Hungary and Slovakia which have been balking at taking in refugees. The EU relocation scheme concerns some 160,000

refugees. According to the European Commission, more than 24,000 refugees have been relocated up to now. The two member states threw the gauntlet to Brussels in December 2015, when they appealed to the Court of Justice of the EU to annul the relocation scheme, arguing that it was not

unanimously adopted and it was neither a suitable response to the refugee crisis nor necessary for that purpose. Refuting the arguments, the Court of Justice ruled that as a non-legislative act, the scheme was not required to be adopted unanimously by the Council of the EU. The Court also ruled that the legality of the decision cannot be called into question on the basis of retrospective assessments of its efficacy. The small number of relocations so far carried out under the scheme should, in particular, come down to the lack of cooperation of "certain member states," the court stressed. (Xinhua)

Syrian Opposition Must Accept it has not Won the War: U.N.

GENEVA - Syria's opposition must accept that they have not won the six-and-a-half year war against President Bashar al-Assad, U.N. peace talks mediator Staffan de Mistura said on Wednesday. De Mistura suggested the war was almost over because many countries had got involved principally to defeat Islamic State in Syria, and a national ceasefire should follow soon after. The two main IS forces - in the city of Raqqa and around the city of Deir al-Zor - were facing im-

minent defeat, which would lead to "the moment of truth", he said. "The issue is: is the government, after the liberation of Deir al-Zor and Raqqa, ready and prepared to genuinely negotiate and not simply announce victory, which we all know, and they know too, cannot be announced because it won't be sustainable without a political process? "Will the opposition be able to be unified and realistic enough to realize they did not win the war?" (Reuters)

Russia's Economic Forum Sees Far East's Potential in Boosting Asia-Pacific Development

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia - A joint exploration of the huge economic potential of Russia's Far East will contribute to the development and prosperity of the Asia-Pacific region, representatives attending an economic forum said here on Wednesday. In the past three years, Russia's Far East region passed 19 federal laws, issued 72 government decrees and created four development institutions to enhance its investment attractiveness, Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yuriy Trutnev said in a speech at the opening ceremony of the Third Eastern Economic Forum (EEF). So far, 837 investment projects have been established in the region which boasts rich natural resources, including oil, gas, portable water, diamond and forest reserves as well as unique logistic conditions, said Trutnev, who is also the chairman of the Organizing Committee of the EEF.

As a major international communication platform for business cooperation between Russia and other markets, the EEF this year continues to present better conditions for doing business in the country's Far East in a bid to attract more foreign investment.

"The Far East has become a magnet for different people from all over the world since five years ago when the APEC summit was held here... It's a great way to strengthen ties with the countries in the Asia-Pacific region," said Nguyen Van Binh, head of Vietnam's Communist Party Central Committee Department for Economic Affairs. (Xinhua)

S.Korea to Deploy Remaining THAAD Elements to Site Early Thursday

SEOUL - South Korea's defense ministry said Wednesday that the remaining elements of the U.S. Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) missile interception system would be deployed to the site in southeast of the country on Thursday.

The ministry said in a statement that the remaining THAAD launchers would be installed together with construction equipment and materials of the U.S. side within Thursday. On April 26, two mobile launchers and other THAAD elements were



transported in the middle of night to a former course at Soseong-ri village in Seongju county, North Gyeongsang province. A THAAD battery, which Seoul and Washington agreed in July last year to deploy, is composed of six launchers, 48 intercept-

ors, the AN/TPY-2 radar and the fire and control unit. In addition to the four remaining launchers, the power-supplying equipment and an equipment linking the fire and control unit to the radar would reportedly be delivered to the site early on Thursday. (Xinhua)

Britain Mulls Continuation of Scientific Research with EU after Brexit

LONDON - Britain will set out Wednesday its eagerness to continue space exploration and nuclear fusion research with its European neighbors after Brexit. The Department for Exiting the European Union (DExEU) is to outline the country's clear objectives for continued scientific collaboration with Europe. The objectives form part of the latest position paper, the first paper since last week's negotiations in Brussels. The paper on science and innovation will lay out a range of mechanisms and areas for future collaboration that Britain will seek to discuss with the Europe-

an Union (EU) as part of the negotiations on the future partnership. The message from Westminster is that continued collaboration in science and innovation is seen as an important part of Britain's future partnership with the EU. Brexit Secretary David Davis said: "Prime Minister Theresa May has set that a global Britain must be a country that looks to the future. This paper sends a clear message to the research and innovation community that we value their work and we feel it is crucial that we maintain collaboration with our European partners after we exit." (Xinhua)

EU Must Make up its Mind on Turkey's Membership: Erdogan

ANKARA, Turkey - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Wednesday renewed his call to the European Union to make its up mind on whether it wants to continue membership talks with his country or end them, angered by a political debate in Germany that centered on how to deal with Turkey. Addressing local leaders of his ruling party in the capital Ankara, Erdogan said he would not allow his country to become an "appetizer" for elections in Germany or other European nations. Erdogan said: "It's up to the EU to take a step. Either they will keep their promise and open the path of the membership process... or they need to say 'we don't want to continue on the path with Turkey.'"

"If you are not able to tolerate Turkey's relations with the EU, come out and say so honestly and do whatever is necessary," Erdogan said.

In a political debate ahead of this month's German elections, Martin Schulz - Chancellor Angela Merkel's main rival - said he would end talks on Turkey joining the EU because of Erdogan's increasingly authoritarian policies. Merkel, who has previously expressed doubts about Turkey ever joining the EU, said Turkey "is departing from all democratic practices at breakneck speed."

Relations between the two countries have been tense for months, with Turkey accusing Germany of harboring people with alleged links to last year's failed coup against Erdogan as well as outlawed Kurdish militant groups. (AP)

Nieghbor News

China, Russia Should Prepare for Further Cooperation: Yang

VOLGOGRAD, Russia - China and Russia should come up with new ideas and proposals for further practical cooperation, Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang has said.

He made the remarks during a chairmen's meeting of the joint commission for regular meetings between the Chinese and Russian heads of government held on Monday and Tuesday. Wang co-chaired the commission with Deputy Prime Minister Dmitry Rogozin from the Russian side. The meeting was aimed at implementing the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin on enhancing mutual trust and deepening

practical bilateral cooperation, during their fourth meeting this year in the Chinese city of Xiamen. In addition, the joint commission chairmen's meeting is preparing for a regular meeting of Chinese and Russian prime ministers scheduled for November, according to Wang. The Chinese vice premier said China-Russia relations have been developing at a high level in recent years, with bilateral cooperation in various areas making significant progress. Wang said China remains Russia's largest trading partner, and that bilateral cooperation in investment and infrastructure interconnectivity are expanding steadily. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Wants to Resolve Issues with US Peacefully: Minister

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Defence Minister Khurram Dastagir on Tuesday said Pakistan would seek to resolve issues with the US in a peaceful manner and expressed the hope for quality bilateral engagement in future. Talking to reporters after a meeting of the National Assembly's committee on defence, he said: "We are trying to resolve the issues amicably because any American action would cause instability in Pakistan."

In the wake of President Donald Trump's policy statement on Afghanistan and South Asia, the government is strategising its future engagement with the US as Pakistan was chastised 'for not acting against alleged terrorist sanctuaries used to carry out attacks in neighbouring countries'.

The defence minister hoped that Pakistan and the US would have "better and quality future engagements". The national security committee, in its last meeting, formed a sub-committee to finalise policy recommendations on relations with the US. Recommendations of an envoys' conference - which is presently being held at the Foreign Office - will also be considered by the National Security Committee's sub-committee while devising the new approach on the US. Earlier, statements by the National Security Adviser and the Foreign Office spokesman underscored that Pakistani leaders were clear that disengagement was not an option, which was reaffirmed by the defence minister's statement. (Monitoring Desk)

Rouhani to Visit Kazakhstan on Bilateral Relations

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani will pay an official visit to Kazakhstan in coming days to talk on bilateral relations, Tasnim news agency reported on Wednesday.

The announcement was made by Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's Chief of Staff. "President Rouhani would travel to the Kazakh capital of Astana within a few days," he said.

Last month, the foreign ministers of Iran and Kazakhstan discussed ways to promote economic, political, and cultural cooperation between the two countries.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his Kazakh counterpart Kairat Ab-

drakhmanov discussed plans for the expansion of banking ties between Tehran and Astana, closer scientific and technological cooperation, joint efforts in tackling dust pollution, and cooperation in the transportation industry. Zarif and Abdrakhmanov also emphasized close coordination between Iran and Kazakhstan in international organizations, in the war on terrorism, and in contribution to the Astana talks for peace in Syria. Rouhani also plans to pay official visits to a number of African countries in the near future, adding that the exact time of the visits has not been determined yet, Vaezi said on Wednesday. (Xinhua)

Rahmon Returns from China Trip with \$310m

DUSHANBE - Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon has returned from a trip to China with nearly \$310 million in grants and loans - the bulk of which is to be spent building a brand new government and parliament complex. The financial haul was the result of Rahmon's 16th visit to neighboring China. As EurasiaNet.org has learned, the cost of the government complex alone will be around \$230 million and is to be entirely underwritten by the Chinese government. Logically enough, build-

ing materials and equipment are to be brought over from China and will be exempt from import tariffs and other similar inconveniences. "They said: Build and we will provide you with the means. Well, why on earth not? Our citizens will get jobs. We have an agreement so that even if Chinese companies do the work, 80 percent of the laborers will be citizens of Tajikistan. And that's great," Jamshed Ahmadzoda, head of the state architecture committee, told Asia Plus news website. (Agencies)