

Trump Speaks to Qatar's Amir on Maintaining Unity Against Terrorism

WASHINGTON - The White House said Friday that U.S. President Donald Trump had spoken with Amir Sheikh Tamim Bin Hamad Al-Thani of Qatar by phone regarding the importance of maintaining unity in combating terrorism. During the discussion on Thursday, Trump underscored the importance of cutting off funding for terrorist groups and combating extremist ideology, said the White House in a statement. Trump also expressed his willingness to mediate an ongoing dispute between Qatar and other Middle East countries.

"If I can help mediate be-



tween Qatar and, in particular, the UAE (United Arab Emirates) and Saudi Arabia, I would be willing to do so and I think you'd have a deal worked out very quickly," said Trump here during his joint press conference with visiting Kuwaiti Amir Sheikh Sabah Al-Ahmad Al-Jaber Al-Sabah. On June 5, the Saudi-led quartet severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a blockade on the rich tiny Gulf nation, citing Doha's support for terrorism and extremism, interference in their internal affairs and seeking closer ties with Iran. Qatar has strongly denied these charges. (Xinhua)

AL Chief to Visit Iraq Ahead of Kurdish Independence Referendum

CAIRO - Arab League (AL) Chief Ahmed Aboul-Gheit on Saturday left for Iraq to support efforts of reviving dialogue between Baghdad and Erbil ahead of the Kurdish independence referendum, the AL said in a statement. Abul Gheit will meet with Iraqi Prime Minister Haidar Abadi in Baghdad to discuss tensions with the Kurdistan region, with Erbil being its capital city, after the referendum was announced, the spokesman of the AL Mahmoud Afifi said in a statement. The national unity after

defeating Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and tackling the resulted political and developmental challenge are very important now, as well as prompting the concept of citizenship that includes the different sects of Iraqis, regardless of their political, religious and ethnic backgrounds, the statement added. During the visit, the AL chief will also meet with President of the Kurdistan region Masoud Barzani in a bid to revive a constructive political dialogue between the two sides, it added. (Xinhua)

US Calls for Vote on Draft UNSC Resolution on DPRK

UNITED NATIONS - The United States has called for a UN Security Council (UNSC) meeting to vote on a draft resolution to impose additional sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), said the U.S. mission to the United Nations on Friday night. The vote in response to Pyongyang's latest nuclear test is intended for Monday, the U.S. mission said in a press release. At an emergency Security Council meeting

last Monday, U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Nikki Haley, announced that her delegation was circulating a draft resolution on the DPRK. The DPRK on Sunday detonated a hydrogen bomb that can be carried by an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM), the DPRK's Central Television announced. The DPRK's nuclear testing and launches using ballistic missile technology violated United



Nations (UN) Security Council resolutions. China's permanent representative to the UN Liu Jieyi has condemned Sunday's nuclear test by the DPRK, urging the country to return to the track of dialogue. China will not allow chaos and war on the Korean Peninsula, he said. (Xinhua)

270,000 Flee Myanmar in Two Weeks: UN Agencies



GENEVA - IOM, the UN migration agency, and the UN refugee agency UNHCR both said Friday that 270,000 people have fled violence in Myanmar

to seek safety in Bangladesh since Aug. 25. The spokesperson for the UNHCR, Duniya Aslam Khan, issued a call for "urgent action" amid "a

dramatic increase in the number of refugees fleeing violence in Myanmar's Northern Rakhine state" during a UN briefing. She said, "UNHCR calls for urgent action to address the root causes of the recent surge in violence, so that people are no longer compelled to flee and can eventually return home in safety and dignity." Kahn said that the two refugee camps in Cox's Bazar in south-east Bangladesh -- home to nearly 34,000 Rohingya refu-

gees before this influx -- are now bursting at the seams. "The population has more than doubled in two weeks, totaling more than 70,000. There is an urgent need for more land and shelters," she said. The UNHCR noted that the limited shelter capacity is already exhausted and refugees are now squatting in makeshift shelters that have mushroomed along the road and on available land in the Ukhiya and Teknaf areas. (Xinhua)

KSA Freezes Talks with Qatar over Report from Qatar News Agency

RIYADH - Kingdom Saudi Arabia (KSA) announced on Saturday the freezing of talks with Qatar over news report from Qatar news agency, Al Arabiya local news reported. The kingdom announced its consideration to initiate a dialogue with Qatar after the approval of the other three countries that severed ties with Qatar in June this year over accusations, including backing extremism and terrorism. The announcement was made after Saudi Crown

Prince, Prince Mohammed bin Salman Al Saud had received a call from Qatari Amir, Shaikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani requesting for a dialogue to end the rifts. Saudi foreign ministry confirmed that the talks will be frozen until Qatar comes out with a clear stand while accusing the agency of publishing a baseless report on the phone conversation. The ministry highlighted that its country isn't ready to tolerate any misinterpretation of agreements or facts by Qatar. (Xinhua)

Red Cross Fills U.N. Void in Myanmar's Violence-Torn Region

YANGON/COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh - The Red Cross organizations are scaling up operations in Myanmar's violence-riven northwest, after the United Nations had to suspend activities there following government suggestions that its agency had supported Rohingya insurgents.

While the world has focused on Bangladesh, where some 290,000 Rohingya have fled an army crackdown on the militants in two weeks, a serious humanitarian crisis is also unfolding on the Myanmar side, aid workers say. Thousands of displaced people have been stranded or left without food for weeks.

The flight of the Rohingya began on Aug. 25 after Rohingya insurgents attacked police posts and an army base in Rakhine state. That triggered an army counter-offensive in which at least 400 people were killed, thousands of houses were burned, villages razed and vast swathes of land depopulated.

"The U.N. and INGOs have not been very welcome in Rakhine and...they are not able to operate and ensure the safety and security of their staff and volunteers," said Joy Singhal of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

"In such an environment, the government has invited the Red Cross to assist them," Singhal said.

Aid workers worry many Rohingya had been left without food since mid-July, when the World Food Programme (WFP), which had been providing food and cash assistance, was unable to operate. (Reuters)

Xi Urges France to Help Restart Talks on North Korea

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping told President Emmanuel Macron on Friday he hoped France could play a "constructive role" in restarting talks on North Korea, state TV said.

The French presidency said the two leaders had agreed in a telephone call on the need to put more international pressure on Pyongyang to get it back to the negotiating table and avoid a dangerous escalation. Chinese TV quoted Xi as saying: "The Korean peninsula nuclear issue in the end can only be resolved through peaceful means, includ-



ing through dialogue and consultations." North Korea has tested a string of missiles this year, including one flying over Japan, and conducting its sixth and biggest nuclear test on Sunday. China hosted on-again, off-again six-party talks on North Korea, including Japan, Russia, the

United States and the two Koreas, that fizzled out in 2008. Experts believe the isolated regime is close to its goal of developing a powerful nuclear weapon capable of reaching the United States, something U.S. President Donald Trump has vowed to prevent. (Reuters)

France's Le Pen Seeks to Bill Herself as Macron's Main Opponent

BRACHAY, France - French far-right leader Marine Le Pen, who has been largely out of the spotlight since stinging electoral defeats, on Saturday sought to reclaim the mantle of main opponent to President Emmanuel Macron, which polls now attribute to the far-left. Surveys show that while Le Pen gathered more votes in the presidential election this spring than her National Front (FN) ever did before, lower-than-expected scores, a damaging TV debate against Macron, infighting within the FN and unpopular anti-euro policies have seriously dented

her image. Instead, far-leftist Jean-Luc Melenchon and his France Unbowed party, whose 17 lawmakers have been vocal opponents to Macron since their election in June, in particular on labor reform, are seen as the new president's strongest foes. Calling France Unbowed "Islam-Trotskysts," saying they backed foreigners over French citizens and put up a show rather than properly opposing Macron, Le Pen said the hardline Laurent Wauquiez, favorite to lead the conservative The Republicans, would become more mainstream as soon as he was elected. (Reuters)

Outgoing UN General Assembly President Urges Raising Awareness of SDGs

UNITED NATIONS - Outgoing UN General Assembly President Peter Thomson said Friday that raising awareness about the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is vitally important to their success.

"I have written to all heads of government asking them to get the SDGs taught in every school in the world. I have also written to heads of 4,000 universities asking them to do the same," said Thomson, who is going to finish his one-year tenure in office and step down from the presidency next week when the 72nd session of the General Assembly kicks off. Thomson told Xinhua that "lack of awareness" would be one of the biggest obstacles hindering the implementation of the SDGs, adding that "we all have to change the way we are doing things."

An informal General Assembly meeting on taking stock of SDGs actions was held at the UN headquarters in New York on Friday.

"We met today with member states to basically account for what has been done in the 71st session, assess the progress and look at what needs to be done," he said, noting that he was happy with the result of the assessment.

"I think people feel happy with the movement forward," he said. However, the president said citizens in many countries are still unaware of the urgency of the timetable for implementing the SDGs. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China, Russia Vow to Boost Cooperation in Far Eastern Development

KHABAROVSK, Russia - Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Yury Trutnev agreed here on Friday to strengthen the two countries' cooperation in developing the Far East. The agreement was reached at a meeting between Wang and Trutnev in Khabarovsk on intergovernmental cooperation between China's northeastern regions and Russia's Far Eastern and Baikal regions.

Such cooperation is among the consensus reached by Chinese President Xi Jinping and Russian President Vladimir Putin, and is also a strategic direction for China-Russia cooperation, Wang said, hailing the achievements in Far

Eastern development between China and Russia. Trutnev said China is an important partner of Russia in regional cooperation.

China and Russia will improve the docking of their development strategies and policy coordination, and push ahead partnerships in trade, investment, tourism and people-to-people exchanges, according to Wang and Trutnev.

They said the two countries will start to compile a guideline for Chinese and Russian enterprises intending to participate in Far Eastern development. Wang and Trutnev agreed to improve interconnectivity, boost infrastructure construction and build a number of big projects. (Xinhua)

CPEC to Bring Pakistan-China More Closer: Dar

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan's Finance Minister, Senator Mohammad Ishaq Dar Thursday said China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) initiative would bring the two countries more closer.

In a meeting with his Chinese counterpart Xiao Jie, Dar said that Pak-China strategic relationship is an anchor for regional peace and stability, said a press release issued here. "Pakistan-China friendship enjoys across-the-board political, institutional and popular support in Pakistan," he said. The minister said the bilateral relationship between both the countries has further strengthened through the launch of the CPEC initiative. Dar congratulated Jie on the inauguration of CAREC Institute and said that Pakistan would continue to actively participate in the activities of

the Institute just as it had extended full support during the process of its establishment.

Both the leaders discussed various issues of mutual interest including ways and means to further enhance the bilateral economic relations. Minister Jie welcomed Dar on his visit to China. He said that senior level exchanges between the two neighbors have been helpful in furthering the objectives of strong bilateral relationship.

Jie appreciated the efforts of the government of Pakistan for timely implementation of CPEC projects. He also thanked Dar for Pakistan's support to the CAREC Institute in Urumqi and expressed hope that Pakistani professionals will also continue to extend support to the Institute in future. (Monitoring Desk)

Rouhani Raps Global Inaction on Violence Against Rohingya Muslims

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has denounced the failure of international organizations and bodies to take action toward putting an end to the violence against the Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, saying the Muslim world cannot remain silent on the plight of the minority group.

"Today, a major humanitarian crisis and an ethnic and ideological cleansing is taking place in Myanmar and hundreds of thousands of Muslims in the region have been displaced," Rouhani told reporters in Tehran before departing for Kazakh-

stan's capital of Astana on Saturday.

He added that more pressure must be exerted on Myanmar's government and army while international organizations should take action on the issue. He also called on Myanmar's neighboring countries such as China and Bangladesh to help the refugees.

In a fresh bout of violence, Myanmar's security forces have been attacking the Rohingya Muslims and torching their villages since October 2016 in a bid to push them out of the western state of Rakhine. (Presstv)

Concept of Administrative Reform Approved in Uzbekistan

TASHKENT - Activity of over 100 bodies of state and economic management will be reconsidered in Uzbekistan during reforming the state administration system, according to the decree of Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev "On approval of concept of administrative reform in Uzbekistan" published in the country's media. The planned administrative reform aims to create effective and transparent state administration system that provides reliable protection of citizens' rights and freedoms, increase of Uzbekistan's

competitiveness in the international arena, which can ensure full execution of the planned reforms.

The "road map", which envisages holding of more than 40 specific events for the practical implementation of the concept of administrative reform, has been also approved by the decree. In addition, commission for the implementation of the concept and working groups for the preparation of proposals for radical reformation of the Uzbek state administration system have been created. (Trend)