

US Calls for Monday Vote on New North Korea Sanctions

UNITED NATIONS - The United States called for a vote Monday on new U.N. sanctions against North Korea, though exactly what measures would be in the resolution remained a mystery. Security Council diplomats, who weren't authorized to speak publicly because talks have been private, said the U.S. and China were still negotiating the text late Sunday. Previous U.N. sanctions resolutions have been negotiated between the United States and China - North Korea's main trading partner and ally - and have taken weeks, and in some cases months, to finalize.



But the Trump administration adopted a totally new approach with this resolution, presenting its draft to China and all other Security Council members last Tuesday and demanding a vote in six days. Diplomats said China's U.N. ambassador, Liu Jieyi, who was on a Security Council trip to Ethiopia, flew back to New York on Thursday to take part in negotiations. North Korea's Foreign Ministry issued a statement early Monday saying it was watching the United States' moves closely and warned that it was "ready and willing" to respond with measures of its own. (AP)

EU Urges Macedonian Gov't, Opposition to Work Together on Urgent Reforms

SKOPJE - The European Union (EU) expects the Macedonian government and the opposition to put divisions aside and implement urgent reform priorities, starting with local elections on Oct. 15, the Macedonian Information Agency cited European Commission spokesperson Maja Kocijancic as saying Monday. According to Kocijancic, the implementation of such reforms is the only way to bring the country back on the path to European integration. "(The) EU has made clear

its position of what it expects when it comes to Macedonia. We are supporting the reform efforts and that clearly includes the expectations when it comes to the upcoming elections and the way forward," the news agency cited Kocijancic as saying at a press conference. Such statements from the EU came at a moment when Macedonian opposition parties have accused the government of preparing an election fraud for the October local elections. (Xinhua)

Int'l Military Exercises Rapid Trident-2017 Kick Off in Western Ukraine

KIEV - International military exercises code-named Rapid Trident-2017 were officially opened on Monday in Ukraine's western Lviv region, the Ukrainian Defense Ministry said. The two-week command post and field manoeuvres, which are held at the Yavoriv International Peacekeeping and Security Training Center, involve 2,500 military personnel from Ukraine and 14 foreign countries, said the statement on the ministry's website. Representatives of the

United States, Canada, Bulgaria, Georgia, Estonia, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Norway, Poland, Romania, Turkey and Britain participate in the drills. The Rapid Trident maneuvers have been conducted annually in Ukraine since 2006 under NATO's Partnership for Peace program. They are designed to boost interaction between the participating nations and exchange the professional experience among



their troops. Last month, Ukrainian Defense Minister Stepan Poltorak said that the 2017 exercises will involve the largest number of military personnel in the history of the drills. In 2016, a total of 1,800 soldiers from Ukraine and 13 foreign countries participated in the exercises. (Xinhua)

S. Korean FM Sees Korean Peninsula Nuke Issue as Long-Term, Biggest Challenge



SEOUL - South Korea's top diplomat on Monday saw the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula as a long-term, biggest challenge as it takes time to

achieve the goal of a complete, verifiable and irreversible denuclearization. The Korean Peninsula nuclear issue "remains the biggest challenge on our

foreign affairs and security front and will continue to be so for many years to come," Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha told a press conference with foreign correspondents in Seoul. Her comments came after the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) tested last week what it claimed was a hydrogen bomb warhead that can be loaded onto an intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM). The sixth nuclear test was seen as the most powerful one ever conducted by Pyongyang, which tested

its first nuclear device in 2006. Kang said she viewed the nuclear issue as a long-term challenge as it would take long to denuclearize in a verifiable manner, reiterating Seoul's position that its eventual goal was to denuclearize the peninsula through complete dismantlement of the DPRK's nuclear program. Though Pyongyang continued provocations, Kang said, Seoul will continue to work to achieve the denuclearization in a peaceful manner. (Xinhua)

Japan Supports Talks to Solve Gulf Crisis through Dialogue

DOHA - Japan's Foreign Minister Taro Kono expressed his government's support to resolve the diplomatic rift between Qatar and the Saudi-led bloc through consecutive dialogue during his meetings with Qatari officials in Doha on Saturday, Qatar's state news agency QNA reported Sunday. Kono held separate meetings with Prime Minister and Minister of Interior HE Sheikh Abdullah bin Nasser bin Khalifa al Thani and Foreign Minister HE Mohammad bin Abdulrahman al Thani.

During the media briefing, Japan's Deputy Press Secretary Toshihide Ando said that the outstanding Gulf dispute was one of the key issues discussed during the meetings. QNA said. Ando mentioned that the Japanese FM supports the mediation efforts of Kuwait and the U.S. to end up the Gulf crisis. "Foreign Minister Kono said that Qatar and the region are important not only for energy security, but also for regional stability and therefore, Japan is watching the situation closely," he added. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China's Top Political Advisor Stresses Religious Affairs Uphold Rule of Law

BEIJING - Top political advisor Yu Zhengsheng Monday said the rule of law should be upheld in dealing with religious work. Yu, chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) National Committee, made the remarks at a session on implementing religious decisions and policies. He stressed the importance of standardizing government management of religious affairs as well as the activities of religious groups with the law. Yu emphasized the need to curb religious

extremism. "The rule of law should be upheld," he said. "Conflicts and disputes involving ethnic and religious factors should be dealt with in accordance with the law concerned to safeguard social harmony and stability." "[We] must resolutely resist overseas infiltration via religious means and prevent missionary activities in educational institutions," Yu said. The top political advisor said patriotic religious figures should be fostered to improve their abilities to inhibit extremist ideology and overseas infiltration. (Xinhua)

Abbasi Urges People to Devote Energies for Betterment of Society

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi has urged the people to reaffirm that they would devote their energies in individual and collective capacities for the betterment of the State and society. "We have to continue to strive for making our country a place where people live with freedom, dignity and honour, as envisioned by the Quaid," the Pakistani prime minister said in a message on the 69th death anniversary of the Father of nation, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah. He said the people of the country were enlightened and resilient. "The best way to pay tribute to the Father of the Nation is to adhere to the principles of Uni-

ty, Faith and Discipline, and to carry forward the Quaid's legacy in letter and spirit toward making Pakistan a developed and prosperous country," he added. The entire nation is observing the 69th death anniversary of Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah on Monday with reverence. The prime minister said Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah inspired the world in general and South Asia in particular through his charismatic and visionary leadership. As a statesman, the Quaid led the constitutional struggle that culminated in the creation of an independent homeland for the Muslims of the sub-continent, he added. (Monitoring Desk)

Only Regional States can Protect Security of Region: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has lambasted foreign interference in regional issues, reiterating that peace and security of the region must only be ensured by its nations. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that only regional countries, particularly Iran and Pakistan, must endeavor and cooperate to establish regional security, stability and peace," Rouhani said in a meeting with Pakistani Foreign Minister Khawaja Muhammad Asif in Tehran on Monday. He added that regional issues, including the crisis in Afghanistan, should be settled through regional approaches, emphasizing that they would never be solved by foreigners and extra-

regional powers. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to cooperate with regional countries, including Pakistan, in the fight against terrorism and development of peace, stability and security in the region," Rouhani pointed out. The Iranian chief executive stressed the importance of cooperation of all countries in fighting terrorism and boosting security along common borders. "Promoting security along the borders and turning them into economic and trade frontiers as well as establishing border markets in these areas will be beneficial to the two nations and be in line with stability and security of the region," Rouhani said. (Presstv)

Humanity will 'Go Down' if it does not Address Climate Change: Pope

ABOARD THE PAPAL PLANE - Pope Francis said the recent spate of hurricanes should prompt people to understand that humanity will "go down" if it does not address climate change and history will judge those who deny the science on its causes. "If we don't turn back, we will go down," Francis told reporters on Sunday on the plane returning from Colombia. Francis strongly backed the 2015 Paris agreement on reducing global warming, from which the United States withdrew this year. Francis spoke as hurricane Irma pounded central Florida as it carved through the state with high winds, storm surges and torrential rains that left millions without power, ripped roofs off homes and flooded city streets.

Francis was asked about recent hurricanes, including Irma and Harvey, and if political leaders who do not want to work with other countries to stem global warming should be held morally responsible for future effects on the planet. "You can see the effects of climate change and scientists have clearly said what path we have to follow," he said, referring to a consensus by scientists that global warming is caused by human activity such as fossil fuels. "All of us have a responsibility, all of us, small or large, a moral responsibility. We have to take it seriously. We can't joke about it," he said. "Each person has their own. Even politicians have their own." (Reuters)

Bangladesh Offers Land to Shelter Rohingya Fleeing Myanmar

COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh - Bangladesh has agreed to free land for a new camp to shelter some of the hundreds of thousands of Rohingya Muslims who have fled recent violence in Myanmar, an official said Monday. The new camp will help relieve some pressure on existing settlements in the Bangladeshi border district of Cox's Bazar, where 313,000 have arrived since Aug. 25, according to the United Nations. "The two refugees camps we are in are



beyond overcrowded," said U.N. refugee agency spokeswoman Vivian Tan. Other new arrivals were being sheltered in schools, or were huddling in makeshift set-

tlements with no toilets along roadsides and in open fields. Basic resources were scarce, including food, clean water and medical aid. Still, more refugees were arriving. (AP)

UK Academics Warn Brexit Bill Could Harm Relations with Scotland, Wales and NI

LONDON - As MPs in the House of Commons prepare to hold their first votes on a crucial Brexit Bill, two leading law experts warned Sunday of the high risks to Britain's future. European and British law experts, Professor Michael Dougan and Dr. Michael Gordon from the University of Liverpool, have both highlighted the potential hurdles for the European Union Withdrawal Bill, known as the Repeal Bill. On Monday, MPs will vote on a number of amendments to a bill that is

aimed at transferring more than 40 years of EU law into British law. The main opposition Labor Party plans to oppose the bill, describing it as a power grab by the governing Conservatives. With fears that a number of pro-European Conservatives may vote against the bill, all eyes will focus on how Prime Minister Theresa May, heading a minority government, handles the situation. Thousands of people campaigning for Britain to remain in the EU staged a march through London on Saturday to the Parliament Square. (Xinhua)

Russian FM Says Saudi Arabia Backs Syria Truce Deals

AMMAN, Jordan - Saudi Arabia has assured Russia that it supports a gradual process of negotiating local ceasefires and setting up "de-escalation zones" in Syria, Russia's foreign minister said Monday, a day after meeting with Saudi leaders. Russia and Iran, Saudi Arabia's main regional foe, back Syria's government, while Saudi Arabia supports Syrian rebels. Russia, Iran and Turkey, another rebel backer, have been sponsoring talks, known for their venue, the Kazakh capital of Astana, on local ceasefires and de-escalation zones. A new round starts later this week.

Asked Monday whether Saudi leaders support the Astana process, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov told reporters: "Yes, I think Saudi Arabia is determined to solve the Syria crisis." He said that when the process began, Saudi leaders expressed support for it and said "they would cooperate in creating de-escalation zones and implementing other initiatives which are being developed in Astana." Lavrov spoke at a news conference after holding talks with Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi. Earlier this summer, Jordan was involved in three-way talks with Russia and the U.S. on a cease-fire in southern Syria, an area that abuts the Western-backed kingdom. Jordan has a vital interest in pacifying southern Syria. The Syrian civil war, now in its seventh year, triggered an exodus of refugees, including hundreds of thousands of Syrians who found refuge in Jordan. (AP)

Uzbekistan to Host OIC Summit on Science and Technology

TASHKENT - The second Summit on Science and Technology of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) will be held in Uzbekistan in 2020. Such a decision was made following the first summit held in Astana Sept. 10. The summit was held under the slogan "Science, Technologies, Innovations and Modernization in the Islamic World". "The theme of our OIC authoritative summit - 'Science, Technologies, Innovations and Modernization in the Islamic

World' is more relevant today than ever," Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev said while addressing the summit. "I would like to stress that we fully support the OIC Ten Year Program of Action for 2016-2025 and its priority areas," the Uzbek president said. The Uzbek president also supported his Kazakh counterpart Nursultan Nazarbayev's initiative on the infrastructure integration of Muslim countries to ensure sustainable economic growth. (Trend)