

UNSC to Hold Emergency Meeting on DPRK's Latest Missile Launch

UNITED NATIONS - The United Nations Security Council will hold an emergency meeting on the latest missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Friday, sources said on Thursday.

The Ethiopian delegation, which is the presidency of the Security Council for September, confirmed in a notice that the U.S. and Japanese delegations to the United Nations "request the Presidency to call urgent consultations."

The DPRK reportedly fired a missile that flew over Japan's northern Hokkaido far out into the Pacific Ocean on Friday.



The Security Council on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution to impose sanctions on the DPRK over its nuclear test on Sept. 3 which violated the previous Security Council resolutions.

The sanctions resolution, the third Security Council action concerning Pyongyang in five weeks, curtailed the DPRK's oil supply by almost 30 percent, and banned all of its textile exports worth 800 million U.S. dollars and remittances of DPRK laborers from abroad. It was the ninth UN sanctions resolution adopted on the DPRK since 2006. (Xinhua)

New DPRK Missile Launch Further Aggravates Tensions: Kremlin

MOSCOW - Russia strongly condemned the latest missile launch by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), as such provocation will further worsen the situation around the Korean Peninsula, the Kremlin said Friday.

"Russia is deeply worried over more provocative launches, which lead to further escalation of tensions on the peninsula," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov was quoted by Tass news agency as saying.

"We strongly criticize such provocative actions and believe that such unequivocal demonstration of condemnation is the sole specific measure that can be taken at the moment," he said.

The DPRK reportedly fired a missile over Japan's northern island Hokkaido and into the Pacific Ocean on Friday, which came only days after the United Nations Security Council voted in favor of a resolution toughening sanctions on the DPRK. (Xinhua)

Qatari Emir Meets Erdogan in Ankara Amid Gulf Diplomatic Rift

DOHA - Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad al-Thani visited Turkey on late Thursday to hold talks with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, local news agencies reported Thursday.

During the meeting, the two leaders held talks on "bilateral ties and regional issues especially the Gulf crisis."

Erdogan strongly spoke out against the sanctions imposed on Qatar by the Saudi-led bloc.

On June 5, Saudi Arabia,

the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a boycott on it, accusing the tiny gas-rich country of supporting terrorism and seeking closer ties with Iran, a Saudi rival.

Ankara has been a major supporter of Doha in the crisis that left Qatar diplomatically and economically isolated.

To help its chief rally in



the Gulf region, Turkey has delivered food to Qatar both by air and sea after the Arab boycott against Doha.

Moreover, Ankara built a military base in Qatar and reportedly has deployed around 200 troops there. (Xinhua)

London "will Never be Intimidated or Defeated by Terrorism": Mayor



LONDON - London Mayor Sadiq Khan said Friday that the British capital "will never be intimidated or defeated by terrorism" as hundreds

of police officers are on the scene following an explosion at a subway station in west London earlier in the day.

The mayor urged peo-

ple to "remain calm and vigilant" in the wake of the explosion, which occurred at around 8:20 a.m. BST on Friday at Parsons Green subway station.

British health services NHS said that 22 people are being treated in four hospitals in the city.

Police said that there were no serious and life-threatening injuries, which are mainly flash burns.

The blast was caused by detonation of improvised explosive device, British police said Fri-

day. A white plastic container caused fire on a packed rush-hour carriage at Parsons Green subway station. A timer was attached to the explosive device, police said.

London explosive ordinance disposal team is looking for forensic clues on the scene as nurseries in the neighbourhood were evacuated.

The incident created chaos in the area as the subway service was shut down and police stopped people from getting close. (Xinhua)

Immigration Increases Child Poverty in Germany: Report

BERLIN - The number of families in which children are threatened by poverty is growing in Germany, the "Family Report 2017" released by the German Minister for Family Affairs Katarina Barley on Friday showed.

Around 2.8 million children were at risk of poverty in 2015, the most recent year for which measurements were available. The figure marked an increase of 1.5 percent compared to 2010 and indicated that nearly every fifth child in Germany (19.7 percent) was affected.

The development was at least partially attributable

to the high volume of immigration between 2010 and 2015. The report put the poverty risk within that sub-demographic part at 49 percent, up from 36 percent in 2011. In contrast, only 13 percent of children without a migratory background were at risk of poverty.

The official document stressed the important role that the availability of full-time child care and early education played in improving the life chances of migrant children. Barley further noted that the risk of poverty was closely correlated with certain family structures. (Xinhua)

Putin, Macron Agree 'Negotiations' Only Way to Defuse N. Korea Tensions

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin and his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron agreed in a phone call on Friday that resuming direct talks with North Korea was the only way to resolve tensions over its nuclear programme, the Kremlin said.

In a statement, the Kremlin said the two leaders "were united in the opinion that it was unacceptable to allow an escalation in tension."

The crisis needs to be resolved "exclusively through political and diplomatic means, by restarting direct negotiations," they reportedly said. (AFP)

U.S. Wants to See North Korea Sanctions Bite, No Options Ruled out

GENEVA - The United States wants to exhaust every diplomatic option on North Korea's nuclear and missile programs, and to see loopholes in the North Korean sanctions regime closed, U.S. disarmament ambassador Robert Wood said on Friday.

"Sanctions have not had a real opportunity to bite as hard as we would like them to bite, and that comes from the fact that they have not been fully implemented," Wood told a news conference in Geneva.

North Korea fired a second missile over Japan far out into the Pacific Ocean on Friday, South Korean and Japanese officials said, deepening tension after Pyongyang's recent test of its sixth and most powerful nuclear bomb.

Washington has in the past accused China, North Korea's main trading partner, of failing to apply enough economic pressure to its neighbor. (Reuters)

Comprehensive FTA Should Be Reached Between UK, EU: Hungarian FM

BUDAPEST - The most comprehensive and large free trade agreement (FTA) should be reached between Britain and the European Union (EU) in order to minimize the negative consequences of the Brexit, Hungarian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade Peter Szijarto told reporters here on Thursday.

He made the remarks while addressing a joint press conference after a meeting between Philip Hammond, the chancel-



lor of the exchequer of Britain, and the ministers of foreign trade of the countries of the Visegrad 4 - Poland, Hungary, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

"Should we not be able

to achieve such an FTA, then the World Trade Organization's regulations would prevail, meaning customs and other tariffs, and we would like to avoid that," Szijarto warned. (Xinhua)

U.S. to Stand by Britain as it Exits Europe: Tillerson

LONDON - The U.S. will be Britain's steadfast ally as it leaves the European Union (EU), Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said in London Thursday.

Tillerson held a series of talks throughout Thursday which included a meeting with British Prime Minister Theresa May. The meetings concluded with a briefing by Tillerson alongside British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson at Lancaster House in London.

Also taking part in the day's meetings were representatives from France, Italy, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt. Their discussions focused on the Middle East, particularly the situations in

Iran and Libya as well as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Johnson and Tillerson also discussed the impact Hurricane Irma had had on the United States as well as the Caribbean region. Tillerson described Britain as a reliable friend and said the U.S. would stand by Britain during what he described as the unique challenges of Brexit. "We will stand by our ally as Brexit continues to take shape," said Tillerson.

Johnson said Libya was the front line in a common struggle against terrorism and illegal migration, adding "we all share a vital interest in that country's stability." (Xinhua)

Astana Process on Syria Considers Involving New Members: Russian Representative

ASTANA - The Astana process was considering involving new members to join the peace talks on Syria, a Russian envoy said here on Thursday.

China, the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, Iraq, Lebanon and Kazakhstan can be admitted to participate in the Astana process as observers and join the peace talks at the next meeting in October, said Alexander Lavrentiev, special representative of Russian President on the Syrian settlement, at the sixth international meeting on Syria in Astana.

Lavrentiev highlighted that the basis of the Astana process was the work of the three guarantor countries - Russia, Iran and Turkey, which will supervise and ensure ceasefire in the de-escalation zones in Syria.

The three countries have already established a Tripartite Committee for that, said Lavrentiev at a briefing about the meeting which started on Wednesday.

Lavrentiev also said that Russian military police will be deployed in the fourth and last de-escalation zone in Syria, namely in Syria's northern province of Idlib. "We are talking about the units of Russian military police, which have already been deployed in a number of the de-escalation zones," Lavrentiev said, adding that if any third country proposes to use of its military contingents, the guarantor countries are ready to consider that. The ideas of establishing de-escalation zones took shape in May when three guarantor countries signed a memorandum at the fourth meeting on Syria in Astana. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China, Russia Explore More Industrial Cooperation

KAZAN, Russia - China and Russia held a ministerial meeting here on Thursday to discuss further cooperation in industrial and high-tech fields.

During the meeting, Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei and Russian Minister of Industry and Trade Denis Manturov discussed cooperation in civil aviation, raw materials, equipment and radio electronics.

After the discussion, the two ministers witnessed the signing of an agreement on proposed Chinese investment in Russia's Republic of Tatarstan and a memorandum of understanding on holding a China-Russia innovation competition. Nearly 200 representatives from the two ministries, China's consulate-general in Kazan, enterprises and academic institutions of both countries attended the meeting. (Xinhua)

U.S. Should Recognize Pakistan's Sacrifices against Terrorism: FM

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan Foreign Minister Khawaja Asif said Thursday that Pakistan will not beg for U.S. aid, and that "Pakistan have fought anti-terror war with own resources."

The foreign minister made the comments during an interview with local media, in response to U.S. President Donald Trump's remarks that the United States has given billions of dollars but Pakistan has not done its part in fighting against the groups operating in Afghanistan.

"We do not need American but we want Pakistan's sacrifices against terrorism should be recognized," Asif told Geo television.

Asif said he will ask the United States and the world community during his upcoming visit to New York to do more

against terrorism as his country has done more than anyone.

"We have conveyed to the United States to change its approach towards Pakistan and the region," Asif said.

He said he will hold a series of high level meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York later this month. Meetings with Afghan president and Russia foreign minister are part of the interaction, he said.

He rejected the allegations that the Taliban-linked Haqqani network has sanctuaries in Pakistan and said the group operates from eastern Afghan provinces.

"Afghan Taliban have now controlled a vast areas and their fighters have a space to live there," the foreign minister said. (Xinhua)

No Zarif-Tillerson Meeting on Iran's UN Agenda: Qassemi

TEHRAN - Iran says there are no plans for a meeting between Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and his American counterpart on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly session, after media reports hinted of such a meeting.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Bahram Qassemi was responding to a question whether a meeting with US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson was on the agenda of Zarif's upcoming trip to New York, where he will attend the 72nd annual session of the UN General Assembly.

Qassemi emphasized no such meeting has been planned and that he is not aware of such a request from Washington. Earlier, AFP had quoted "diplomats" as saying that Tillerson would hold a first meeting on the Iran nuclear deal with Zarif and other parties to the 2015 agree-

ment, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA.) Zarif will attend the UN general assembly next week and will hold talks with counterparts from Asian, European and neighboring countries, Qassemi said.

The top diplomat is also slated to hold talks with the European Union foreign policy chief, Federica Mogherini, and some foreign ministers of the P5+1 group of countries - Russia, China, France, Britain, the US, the UK and Germany - on issues of bilateral and international significance as well as the JCPOA.

Dignitaries from 193 nations will gather September 19 for a week of speeches and sideline meetings at the annual UN General Assembly in New York.

Iranian President Hassan Rouhani is also scheduled to give a speech at the UN General Assembly next week. (Presstv)

Kazakh President Nazarbaev to Visit Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbaev will pay a working visit to Uzbekistan and attend the opening of the 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games in Turkmenistan's capital, Ashgabat.

Talking to journalists in Astana on September 14, Nazarbaev confirmed earlier reports that he will visit the two neighboring Central Asian countries on September 16-17.

Nazarbaev's press service said earlier that the Kazakh president will

take part in the work of the Kazakh-Uzbek business forum in Tashkent on September 16 and will attend the opening of the Asian Games in Ashgabat the next day.

Ties between two major players in Central Asia, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, have been improving after Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev took over the region's most populous country of more than 30 million following the death of his predecessor, Islam Karimov, a year ago. (Agencies)