

# Russia, Turkey, Iran to Send 1,500 Military Police to De-Escalation Zone in Idlibe

ASTANA - Russia, Turkey and Iran which held the latest round of peace talks on Syria on Thursday and Friday have agreed to each contribute 500 military police to be deployed in the de-escalation zone in Syria's Idlibe province.

The observers will be deployed to the most vulnerable places, to work on the demarcation line and the line of contact to preserve stability and prevent provocations, Alexander Lavrentyev, Russian President Vladimir Putin's special representative on Syria, said here Friday.

"Sometimes it happens that someone somewhere heard an occasional shot and



answered in reply. Sometimes, such small provocations lead to significant and sad consequences," he explained.

Russia, Turkey and Iran announced Friday the creation of de-escalation zones in Syria under a memorandum dated May 4. The representatives of these countries emphasize that the creation of de-escalation zones and safety bands is a temporary measure, whose duration will initially be six months with an automatic extension on the basis of a consensus of guarantor states. It was the sixth round of peace talks on Syria in Astana, brokered by Russia, Turkey and Iran. (Xinhua)

## Trump Confident U.S. Options for DPRK Threat "Effective and Overwhelming"

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump said on Friday he was confident that U.S. options in addressing threats posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) were "effective and overwhelming."

Trump made the remarks when giving a speech at Joint Base Andrews near Washington. He said that the latest DPRK's ballistic missile launch has shown "its utter contempt for its neighbors and for the entire world community."

"After seeing your capa-

bilities and commitment here today, I am more confident than ever that our options in addressing this threat are both effective and overwhelming," said Trump, addressing the U.S. air force which was celebrating its 70th anniversary. Trump also vowed that his country would defend itself from "all who dare to threaten our way of life," including Pyongyang. The DPRK confirmed that it conducted another medium-range ballistic missile test Friday. (Xinhua)

## Trump Calls for End to Defense Spending Cut

WASHINGTON - U.S. President Donald Trump Friday called for an end to mandatory budget cuts that have brought down defense spending.

"I am calling on Congress to end the defense sequester once and for all," Trump told military personnel at Joint Base Andrews in the U.S. state of Maryland who were celebrating the 70th anniversary of the U.S. Air force.

Trump cited dramatic cuts in troop numbers and fighter aircraft in past decades as a result of the

so-called sequestration, or across-the-board budget cuts instituted by Congress. The president also promised to give tools, training, equipment and other resources to the military as he spoke in a hangar where a B-2 stealth bomber, an F-35 and an F-22 fighter jet were showcased.

The remarks came a day after Senate reached an impasse over taking legislation to the floor for debate and vote that would have eliminated seques-



tration. The mandatory automatic spending limits were set in motion by then President Barack Obama in 2012 as part of efforts

to prevent the country's debt from spiraling out of control after a failed attempt by Congress to pass a plan to reduce deficits. (Xinhua)

## UN Chief Highlights Plight of Refugees, Migrants on World Peace Day



UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres highlighted the plight of refugees and migrants and the need to end conflicts on the occasion to mark the Inter-

national Day of Peace, or World Peace Day. At a bell-ringing ceremony in a garden at the UN Headquarters in New York to mark the day, Guterres said: "the Inter-

national Day of Peace is an opportunity to renew our resolve to work for a future free of violence and strife."

"It's a day when we honor those who have fallen in war, and when we grieve the suffering that conflict causes. It is also when we call on combatants worldwide to lay down their arms and observe a day of cease-fire and nonviolence," he added.

"This year, we turn our thoughts in particular to refugees and migrants, who need our support more than ever. There are

now more than 65 million people who have been forced by conflict and persecution to flee their homes and homelands. Many more are on the move out of desperation for a better future," he said. "When more and more doors and minds are being closed to refugees, let us show solidarity. Let us highlight the shared benefits of migration to economies and to nations. When others receive the support they need and deserve, we are all more secure and better off." (Xinhua)

## Macron Urges Lifting of Gulf Blockade Against Qatar

DOHA - French President Emmanuel Macron have urged the lifting of a Saudi-led embargo on Qatar in effect since June 5, Qatar News Agency (QNA) reported late Friday.

Macron is calling for "the embargo measures affecting the people of Qatar, in particular families and students, to be lifted as quickly as possible," the president's office said in a statement Friday after he met Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

The statement said Macron "expressed his concern over the tensions

that threaten regional stability, undermining the political resolution of the crises and our collective fight against terrorism."

During the meeting in Paris, the two leaders have discussed the latest developments of the Gulf crisis, and the efforts to resolve it through dialogue and diplomatic means with Kuwait's mediation. The visit is the third trip, after Turkey and Germany, of the Qatari emir's first foreign tour since the crisis began.

The emir is also scheduled to meet with U.S. President Donald Trump on Saturday. (Xinhua)

## US-Backed Force Says Hit by Russia, Regime Strikes in East Syria

BEIRUT - A US-backed force battling the Islamic State group in eastern Syria said six of its fighters were wounded on Saturday in air strikes by regime and Russian warplanes. It is the first time the Syrian Democratic Forces, an alliance of Arab and Kurdish fighters, have said they have been hit by Russia. The SDF and Russian-backed Syrian government forces are conducting parallel but separate offensives against IS in the eastern province of Deir Ezzor. "At 3:30 am (0030 GMT) on September 16, 2017, our forces east of the Euphrates River were targeted by Russian and Syrian regime warplanes in the Al-Sinaaiya area," the SDF said. (AFP)

## China's Hong Kong, ASEAN to Sign FTA, Investment Agreement Soon: Chief Executive

YANGON - Chief Executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (SAR) Lam Cheng Yuet-ngor said here Saturday that Hong Kong SAR and ASEAN are about to sign a free trade agreement and a related investment agreement. Lam made the remarks in her keynote speech at the opening of the 14th World Chinese Entrepreneurs Convention (WCEC), which kicked off on Saturday. The agreements will cover trade in goods, trade in services, investment, economic and technological cooperation, dispute settlement and other areas, she said. Lam highlighted the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for being an important trading partner of Hong Kong, saying that the region is Hong Kong's second largest partner in goods trade and the fourth largest in services trade. (Xinhua)

## Aussie FM to Discuss Challenges Related to Terrorism at UN General Assembly

CANBERRA - Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on Saturday declared the changing face of terrorism and modern slavery to be two of her key talking points at the upcoming 72nd session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly.

The UN General Assembly will take place in New York on Sept. 16-24. In a statement detailing her trip, Bishop said there were a number of talking points which Australia will



seek to raise. "The United Nations continues to be an important forum for maintaining the international rules-based order, which is vital for the pursuit of every nation's interest,"

Bishop said on Saturday. "I will highlight Australia's leadership and experience in tackling important challenges, including modern slavery, malaria, climate change and terrorism. (Xinhua)

## U.S. Should Stop Threats over North Korea: China's Envoy

WASHINGTON - China's ambassador to Washington on Friday called on the United States to refrain from making threats over North Korea, which a day earlier launched another missile over Japan into the Pacific Ocean.

Ambassador Cui Tiankai told reporters at an embassy event: "Honestly, I think the United States should be doing ... much more than now, so that there's real effective international cooperation on this issue."

"They should refrain from issuing more threats. They should do more to find effective ways to resume dialogue and negotiation," he said. President

Donald Trump and others in the United States and beyond have urged China to increase diplomatic and economic pressure on its Communist ally to help resolve the standoff over North Korea's weapons programmes.

China fought alongside North Korea during the 1950-53 Korean War, in which Chinese leader Mao Zedong lost his eldest son, and Beijing has long been Pyongyang's chief ally and primary trade partner. But the Chinese government has pushed back against the notion that it has any control over Pyongyang, and says it is the United States that should be doing more. (Reuters)

## Don't Remove the Tie: France's Macron Bound by Unspoken Rule

PARIS - That tie. He just won't take it off, even when picking his way in sweltering heat through the rubble left by Hurricane Irma on the French Caribbean island of St. Martin.

President Emmanuel Macron has shaken French politics to its core but dares not breach the dress code for a French chief of state. The tie, preferably dark, is de rigueur.

King Willem-Alexander of the Netherlands also flew to St. Martin to assess damage and display royal solidarity on the Dutch half of the island. He wore a khaki-colored shirt, sleeves rolled to the elbows - and no necktie.

"He's a real king. He doesn't need to post signs to show his stature," said Jamil Dakhlia, a Sorbonne University sociologist specializing in political communications.

The French Revolution ended the country's monarchy in 1789. The French presidency remains powerful but there is "a need to show with symbols one's legitimacy. So, you must keep the tie on," Dakhlia explained.

The Dutch king also is not a 39-year-old former investment banker looking to upset the political system with his upstart centrist party and planning to undo France's nearly sacrosanct labor laws - all while sliding in popularity.

Conscious of his baggage, Macron donned a tie while campaigning and has kept it on ever since, even during events in which sartorial elegance might be understandably cast aside. (AP)

## Nieghbor News

### Belt, Road Initiative an Avenue to Win-Win Global Cooperation: Chinese Official

PARIS - The Belt and Road Initiative is "an avenue for advancing inclusive development of economic globalization via a fully open and inclusive vision, in which all economies around the world can participate," said Zeng Peiyan, vice chairman of the Boao Forum for Asia (BFA), here on Friday.

Inspired by the ancient Silk Road linking the East and the West and dating back over 2,000 years ago, the initiative "is not a geopolitical tool, neither is it a foreign aid program," said Zeng at the BFA Paris Conference.

Instead, he called it a "platform of practical cooperation and an initiative for interconnected development" which

aimed at "seeking new growth drivers of world economy, realizing balanced development for universal benefits and bridging the wealth gap."

The Belt and Road Initiative also eyes "to build in the region connectivity of policy, infrastructure, trade, finance and people-to-people exchanges," that according to him, would lead to boosted in-depth economic and trade integration between Asia and Europe.

Zeng noted the Belt and Road Initiative allows to "defuse geopolitical risks such as refugees and terrorism and advancing peace and stability in Asia and Europe," by enabling countries to work together. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan PM to Attend UNGA Session Next Week

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi would lead his country's delegation to attend the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in New York on Monday, the Foreign Ministry said.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, the prime minister will hold bilateral meetings with a number of world leaders and Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres, the ministry said in a statement on Friday. This is Abbasi's first visit to New York since he assumed office as the

prime minister after the country's top court removed his predecessor Nawaz Sharif over corruption charges in July.

The prime minister will address the Council on Foreign Relations and will interact with the U.S. Pakistan Business Council. He will also have extensive interaction with the international media.

"Pakistan is a great advocate of multilateralism and the United Nations to promote collective responses to the multifaceted challenges of global peace, security and development," the Foreign Ministry said. (Xinhua)

### Tehran Ready to Cooperate more Closely with EU in Fighting Terrorism: Rouhani

TEHRAN - President Rouhani described Iran-Belgium relations longstanding and positive and said that development of ties in various fields, particularly if economic fields, is beneficial to both nations, adding: "The post-JCPOA atmosphere can be a great opportunity for deepening economic ties between Iran and the EU members".

In the meeting with the President of the Chamber of Representatives of Belgium Siegfried Bracke on Saturday in Tehran, Dr Rouhani also said: "Iran is willing to develop ties with the European Union members and, without a doubt, the two sides can make the best use of the current conditions to develop relations to serve the national interests of the nations".

"In the previous administration's term of office, we attempted to settle issues

and improve Iran's relations with the world and in the new term, we are attempting to make the best use of the atmosphere provided in the previous administration to serve the interests of our nation," said Rouhani expressing hope that friend countries such as Belgium work more effectively for promoting economic ties and activating the private sectors.

On the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the necessity for both sides to live by their commitments, he said: "Iran and P5+1 could reach an agreement in a very important issue named the nuclear issue and this was one of the greatest achievements of the negotiation table in a very complicated issues that can serve as a model for settling other complicated regional and global issues". (Agencies)

### Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan Sign Agreement on Military-Technical Co-Op

TASHKENT - The agreement was signed amid President of Kazakhstan Nursultan Nazarbayev's visit to Uzbekistan, Ria Novosti reported.

The document was signed by the Minister of Defense of Uzbekistan Abdusalom Azizov and the Minister of Defense and Aerospace Industries of Kazakhstan, Beibut Atamkulov.

"The implementation of the agreement will help strengthen bilateral cooperation based on the principles of equality and reciprocity in the mili-

tary-technical sphere," the document says.

This year, Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan have stepped up cooperation in the military-technical sphere. In August, the defense ministries of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan concluded a military cooperation plan for the first time in the history of bilateral relations.

The signed document includes activities within the framework of joint operational, combat training of troops, as well as, field of military education. (Trend)