

Post Brexit Britain can Become Global Tech Powerhouse: British FM

LONDON - British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson said Saturday people writing off Britain as it heads towards Brexit are making a grievous error. In a commentary published in the Daily Telegraph newspaper, Johnson launches an attack on critics.

"They are in grievous error, all those who write off this country, who think we don't have it in us, who think that we lack the nerve and the confidence to tackle the task ahead," said the politician. "There are some people woefully underestimating this country, thinking, 'They Brexit isn't going to happen, who think we are going to bottle it,'" he added.



He predicted Britain will succeed in its new national enterprise, adding: "and will succeed mightily". Johnson said Brexit is Britain's chance to catch the wave of new technology, and to put the country in the lead as a "tech powerhouse" as one of four big tech investment areas of the world. "In 10 years', 20 years' time, when we consider the arc of history comprised by our 45 years of EU membership, we will have a better and fairer comprehension of these events, why the British people wanted to join and why, eventually and sometimes regretfully, they wanted to leave (the EU)." (Xinhua)

EU, China, Russia Share Similar Views on Keeping Iran Deal

TEHRAN - The European Union, China and Russia have a common view on maintaining the Iran nuclear deal, a member of National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of Iranian Parliament said Sunday. Because of the global urgencies and the interests of all the parties involved in the deal, other members are trying to prevent the deal from being paralyzed, with or without the United States, Alireza Rahimi said, referring to the European countries as well as China and Russia that are

among other signatories of the July 2015 deal, also known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). The JCPOA is an issue of the Islamic establishment concern, Rahimi added. "In fact, it was the Islamic establishment that agreed 'to go ahead with implementation of the nuclear deal,' Rahimi said. The senior member of Iran's Parliament (Majlis) also said that, the JCPOA is a long-term accord which was signed in an atmosphere of distrust toward Washington. (IRNA)

ISTANBUL - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Sunday reiterated his opposition to an upcoming referendum on independence by the Iraqi Kurds, saying Ankara and Baghdad are aiming to preserve Iraq's territorial integrity. "We share a 350-kilometer-long border with them, our kin and coreligionists live there and in reality we are the members of the same civilization," Erdogan told reporters in Istanbul prior to his departure for the

United States. "But if you take any step against that understanding we cannot just let you proceed," he spoke of the intention of Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government to press ahead with the vote on independence on Sept. 25. A day earlier, Iraqi Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi said his government is prepared to intervene militarily if the referendum results in violence. Erdogan said he is going



to meet with al-Abadi in the U.S. and discuss the issue in details. On Friday, the Turkish leader called on the Iraqi Kurds to cancel the planned vote, noting Ankara will announce its official position on the issue after Turkey's National Security Council and cabinet meet on Sept. 22. (Xinhua)

Turkey, Iraq Seek to Keep Iraqi Integrity: Erdogan

Trump, Moon to Increase Pressure on DPRK: White House



WASHINGTON - The United States and South Korea have agreed to increase pressure on the Democratic People's Re-

public of Korea (DPRK) after Pyongyang's latest missile test, the White House said. U.S. President Donald

Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in spoke on Saturday by phone. The two leaders have pledged to strengthen deterrence and defense capabilities and to maximize economic and diplomatic pressure" on the DPRK, according to a White House statement. The DPRK confirmed that

it conducted another medium-range ballistic missile test on Friday. The missile launch, which violates U.N. Security Council resolutions, came just days after the council imposed fresh sanctions on the DPRK over its nuclear test on Sept. 3. China on Friday said it opposes ballistic missile launches by the DPRK, urging all parties concerned to exercise restraint and avoid any acts that may escalate tensions on the Korean Peninsula. (Xinhua)

Erdogan, Annan Discuss Myanmar's Rohingya Crisis over Phone

ANKARA - Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan held a phone conversation late Saturday with former UN Secretary General Kofi Annan over the recent situation in Rakhine State of Myanmar. They discussed ways to resolve the crisis and end the persecution of Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar, as well as a recent report by the Annan-led Rakhine Advisory Commission, which calls for an end to the restrictions on the movement and citizenship of the 1.2-million Rohingya minority in Rakhine, lo-

Russia's Lavrov and Tillerson Talk Syria after Bombing Allegations

MOSCOW - Russia's Foreign Ministry said on Sunday that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had phoned Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov on Saturday to discuss the Syria situation and how the "anti-terrorism" battle on the ground was playing out. The call occurred after U.S.-backed militias in Syria said they had come under attack on Saturday from Russian jets and Syrian government forces in Deir al-Zor province, a flashpoint in an increasingly complex battlefield. The Russian Foreign Ministry did not say in its statement about the Lavrov-Tillerson call if the two men had discussed that allegation and how Moscow had responded if they had. (Reuters)

S. Africa to Sign Nuclear Non-Prohibition Treaty: Presidency

CAPE TOWN - South Africa will sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons next week during the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly, the Presidency said on Sunday. President Jacob Zuma will ink the treaty on behalf of South Africa on September 20, presidential spokesperson Bongani Ngqulunga said. Signature of the treaty reflects South Africa's continued commitment towards the achievement of a world free from the threat posed by nuclear weapons, Ngqulunga said. This will ensure that nuclear energy is used for peaceful purposes only, he added. The Presidency issued the statement as Zuma arrived in New York to attend the UN General Assembly session which is under the theme: "Focusing on People: Striving for Peace and a Decent Life for all on a Sustainable Planet". (Xinhua)

German Liberals Draw Red Line for Merkel on Euro Zone Budget

BERLIN - Germany's Free Democrats (FDP) on Sunday ruled out joining a post-election coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel if she supported French plans to deepen fiscal integration in the euro zone. Germany goes to the polls next Sunday, when Merkel looks almost certain to be elected to a fourth term in office, though her conservatives will not win enough votes to govern alone. The socially liberal FDP have long been seen as her natural allies and



were junior partners in her second government from 2009 to 2013. They crashed out of parliament that year but are hoping to re-enter the legislature on Sept. 24 as the third-largest party. "The toughest question is setting the agenda for

the future of Europe," FDP leader Christian Lindner told the Welt am Sonntag newspaper. "I fear that Ms Merkel has already agreed to new funding mechanisms (for the EU) with (French President Emmanuel) Macron. (Reuters)

U.S. Lawmakers Approve "Sanctuary State" Bill for Immigrants Despite Threat

LOS ANGELES - Lawmakers in the western U.S. state of California on Saturday passed a "sanctuary state" bill to protect immigrants without legal status in the United States, in an obvious defiance against the policy of President Donald Trump's administration. The bill would limit state and local law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities, and prevent officials from asking about a person's immigration status and holding people for that reason. The decision came about a month after California Attorney General Xavier Becerra filed a lawsuit against the

Trump Administration over its threats to withhold public safety funds from so-called "sanctuary" cities. Trump signed an Executive Order on Jan. 25 seeking to withhold federal funding for "sanctuary jurisdictions". The U.S. Department of Justice issued a directive in July warning that nine local governments may lose federal funding because of their "sanctuary" policies. The nine governments on the blacklist are Chicago, the state of California, New Orleans, New York, Philadelphia, Clark County of Nevada, Cook County of Illinois, Miami-Dade County of Florida, and Milwaukee County of Wisconsin. (Xinhua)

Japan's PM Considers Snap Election as Early as October: Sources

TOKYO - Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe is considering calling a snap election for as early as next month to take advantage of his improved approval ratings and disarray in the main opposition party, government and ruling party sources said on Sunday. Abe's ratings have recovered to 50 percent in some polls, helped by public jitters over North Korea's missile and nuclear tests and chaos in the opposition Democratic Party, which has been struggling with single-digit support and defections. Abe told executives of his Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner, the Komeito party, that he might dissolve parliament's lower house for a snap poll after the legislature convenes for an extra session from Sept. 28, the sources said. Top LDP and Komeito officials will meet on Monday to discuss preparations, they added. "Until now, it appeared the election would be next autumn, but ... we must always be ready for battle," domestic media quoted Komeito party chief Natsuo Yamaguchi as telling reporters on Saturday during a visit to Russia. One option is to hold a snap election on Oct. 22, when three by-elections are scheduled, the sources said. Other possibilities are later in October or after an expected visit by U.S. President Donald Trump in early November. Abe will probably make a decision after returning from a Sept. 18-22 trip to the United States, the sources said. (Reuters)

Nieghbor News

Russian Minister Sees Great Potential in Industrial Cooperation with China

KAZAN, Russia - Russia and China can cooperate more closely in industrial and high-tech fields, and the future of such a partnership will be rosy, Russian Industry and Trade Minister Denis Manturov has said. "We are always ready to develop cooperation in all areas where there is an opportunity to unite our potential," he told Xinhua in a recent exclusive interview here. Manturov said he views Russia-China cooperation in industry and high technologies very positively and he has formed a working group on a wide range of industries together with Chinese Minister of Industry and Information Technology Miao Wei. According to him, Rus-

sian fertilizers giant PhosAgro is considering with Chinese partners joint production of hydrochloric acid at one of its plants. The Ammonium firm located in Russia's Republic of Tatarstan is mulling the possibility of Chinese investment in the expansion of the range of its ammonia-based products. Russia has also invited Chinese enterprises to participate in the creation of industrial parks for the production of value added aluminum items. According to Manturov, Russia exports its electricity, hydrocarbon resources and primary aluminum, but it paradoxically imports finished aluminum products. (Xinhua)

Mamnoon Invites Tajikistan to Join CPEC's Trade Route

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain Sunday invited Tajikistan to join the trade route of China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), saying Pakistan offers excellent opportunities to Tajikistan for its imports and exports through the Gwadar port in Balochistan province, according to a statement from the President House in Islamabad. Hussain was talking to his Tajik counterpart Emomali Rahmon in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan's capital, on the sidelines of 5th Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games during which they dis-

cussed cooperation in the energy sector, regional connectivity and trade, the statement said. The Pakistani president hoped that the legal process for Tajikistan's entry into Quadrilateral Traffic-in-Transit Agreement (QITA) would provide the Central Asian country a legal framework to access Pakistani seaports through CPEC. The QITA is a transit trade deal between China, Pakistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. The CASA-1000 would transit excess Kyrgyzstan's and Kazakhstan's electricity to Pakistan and Afghanistan. (Xinhua)

Rouhani to Spotlight U.S. Nuclear Deal Breach in UN Speech

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani said Sunday that he will explain some points about the U.S. misconduct pertaining to Iran's 2015 nuclear deal in his UN speech, official IRNA news agency reported. Rouhani left Tehran for New York on Sunday to attend the upcoming UN General Assembly meeting, IRNA said. During his trip, Rouhani will deliver a speech at the UN General Assembly and will urge the United States to abide by its commitments to the nuclear deal reached in 2015. "Today, there is a consensus in the world that the JCPOA (or Iran's nuclear deal) benefits security, stability and development in the region and the world," he was quoted as saying by Press TV. "The opponents of the JCPOA are restricted to two or three countries,

including some in the United States, who feel cheated. They believe that a feast has been set out but that they are deprived of going to the table," Rouhani said. He said that Iran has been committed to its obligations and this has been confirmed repeatedly by the International Atomic Energy Agency, the UN nuclear watchdog. After years of tension with the West, Iran struck a deal with the world powers of Britain, China, France, Russia and the United States plus Germany in July 2015, under which Iran agreed to limit its uranium-enrichment activities in return for the lifting of western and international sanctions. The international agreement is facing a serious threat of collapse as tensions mounted between Washington and Tehran recently, the report said. (Xinhua)

President of Uzbekistan Visits Turkmenistan

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan's President Shavkat Mirziyoyev arrived in Turkmenistan at the invitation of the President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on Sunday. Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan Esermyrat Orazgeldiyev met the head of our state at the international airport of Ashgabat. A meeting of the President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev and the President of Turk-

menistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov was held. During a sincere conversation, it was noted that recently the relations between our countries have been developing dynamically in all spheres. An important role in this is played by close friendship, trust and sincerity established between the heads of the two states. The regularity of contacts at the highest level indicates a high level of inter-governmental relations. (Agencies)