

# Qatari Emir Patronizes Opening of U.S.-Islamic World Forum

DOHA - The Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al-Thani patronized the opening of the U.S.-Islamic World Forum in New York on Sunday, QNA has reported.

The two-day event will explore opportunities to strengthen cooperation between the Islamic world and the United States.

The forum aims to chart the ways in which the relationship between the two sides should be in light of the developments of the Middle East.

U.S. President Donald Trump will hold a meeting with the head of Qatar on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting in New York on Tuesday to discuss the Gulf crisis. (Xinhua)



## ASEAN Countries Express Support for Developing Cyber Security Norms

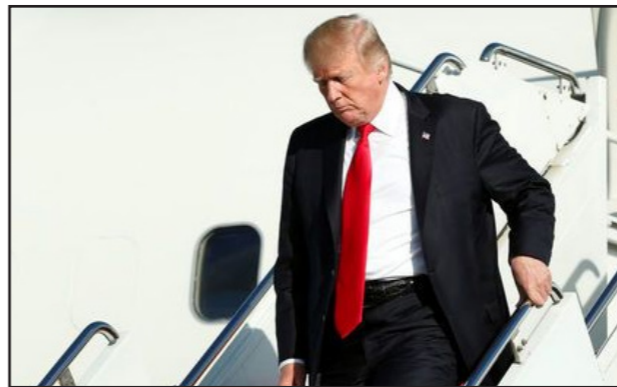
SINGAPORE - Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) member states on Monday expressed their support for the development of basic, operational and voluntary norms of behavior to guide the use of ICTs in the bloc in a responsible manner. They made the remarks at the second ASEAN Ministerial Conference on Cybersecurity (AMCC), which is part of the Singapore International Cyber Week 2017 (SICW). According to a press release from the Cyber Security Agency

of Singapore, the norms will take reference from the norms set out in the 2015 Report of the United Nations Group of Government Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (UNGGE). The AMCC agreed that such norms will help to enhance trust among ASEAN member states and build confidence in the use of cyberspace so as to harness its full potential to bring about greater economic prosperity. (Xinhua)

## As N. Korea Threat Looms, Trump to Address World Leaders at U.N.

UNITED NATIONS - North Korea's nuclear threat looms large this week over the annual gathering of world leaders at the United Nations in New York, where diplomats are eager to hear U.S. President Donald Trump address the 193-member body for the first time. North Korean diplomats will have a front-row seat in the U.N. General Assembly for Trump's speech on Tuesday morning, which will touch on the escalating crisis that has seen Trump

and Pyongyang trade threats of military action. Despite his skepticism about the value of international organizations and the United Nations in particular, Trump will seek support for tough measures against North Korea, while pressing his "America First" message to the world body. "This is not an issue between the United States and North Korea. This is an issue between the world and North Korea," Trump's national security



adviser, H.R. McMaster, said on Friday. U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres - who, like Trump, took office in January - plans to meet separately with "concerned parties," including North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong-ho, on the sidelines of the 72nd General Assembly. (Reuters)

## Top Official Leaves Britain's Brexit Ministry



LONDON - The top official at Britain's Brexit ministry quit on Monday to start working directly for Prime Minister Theresa May, in what opposition parties branded as

"chaos" at a sensitive time in the negotiations. Oliver Robbins, the permanent secretary at the Department for Exiting the European Union, will now be May's EU adviser.

er, the ministry said in a statement. It said the move would "strengthen cross-government coordination of the next phase of negotiations" in Brussels, which is due to start next week. Robbins will continue to head the negotiating team.

A source at the ministry told AFP it was a "planned move" and denied a report in the London Evening Standard newspaper that there had been a falling out between Robbins and Brexit Secretary David Davis.

But Keir Starmer, Brexit spokesman for the main opposition Labour Party, said: "Moving key individuals at this critical time adds a whole new dimension to the government's chaotic approach to Brexit." "Deep divisions in the cabinet and a complete lack of leadership are putting the national interest at risk," he said. Vince Cable, leader of the pro-EU Liberal Democrats, said: "This is a sign of the chaos and division at the heart of this government." (AFP)

## Rohingya Refugees Threat to National Security: India

NEW DELHI - India on Monday termed Rohingya refugees from Myanmar as a "very serious and potential threat to national security" and indicated it could soon deport them from the country. In a written submission to the country's Supreme Court, the Indian government claimed that the Rohingya Muslims, who fled violence in Myanmar and settled in India, are "indulging in anti-national activities and channelizing funds through hawala (illegal) channels." "There is a serious potential and possibility of eruption of violence by the radicalized Rohingyas against Buddhists in India," it told the court, which sought the response of the government in the wake of petition by two Rohingya Muslims challenging deportation by India. "The right to reside and settle in the country is available only to citizens and not to illegal immigrants," the government said, making it clear that India is not signatory to the United Nations convention on refugees and thus is not bound by it. The next date of hearing is on Oct. 3. (Xinhua)

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## US Fighter Jets, Bombers Conduct Bombing Drill in Korean Peninsula

SEOUL - The U.S. forces on Monday dispatched four stealth fighter jets and two strategic bombers to the Korean Peninsula to conduct a joint bombing drill with South Korea's air force, local media reported. An unidentified South Korean government source was quoted by Yonhap news agency as saying four F-35B stealth combat planes and two B-1B strategic bombers simultaneously made sorties to the peninsula earlier in the day. The strategic U.S. weapons carried out a mock bombing exercise before returning to unidentified bases, the source was quoted as saying. The U.S. bombers and combat planes staged a joint exercise with four F-15K fighter jets of South Korea's air force. (Xinhua)

## China, Russia Start Joint Naval Drills

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia - China and Russia started the second stage of their "Joint Sea-2017" military exercises on Monday with the arrival of a Chinese naval fleet in the Russian port city of Vladivostok. The exercises are scheduled to take place in the Sea of Japan and the Okhotsk Sea, after the first stage was held on July 22-27 in the Baltic Sea.

It is the first time that the venue of the drills has extended to the Okhotsk Sea. Naval forces from both sides will, also for the first time, conduct joint submarine rescue exercises and joint anti-submarine exercises. The Chinese fleet consists of missile destroyer "Shijiazhuang", missile frigate "Daqing", comprehensive supply ship "Dongpinghu", submarine rescue ship "Changdao", a deep submersible rescue vehicle, two ship-borne helicopters and marines. (Xinhua)

## German Election: Liberals Demand Finance Ministry after Election Victory

BERLIN - Alexander Hahn, member of the directorate of the German Liberal party (FDP), has demanded that his party would claim the ministry of finance in any possible government. Speaking to German newspaper BILD, Hahn said that "FDP should not enter any government in which it does not provide the finance minister." Six days before the election, polls see three different governments as possible outcomes to the federal election in Germany. A continuation



of the grand coalition between Merkel's Christian democrats (CDU) and the social democratic party (SPD), a three-party coalition between CDU, FDP and the green party, as well as a coalition between CDU and

FDP only. Hahn reasons that only with a FDP-led finance ministry "could central election promises like a better financing of education and a reform of the tax system be guaranteed." (Xinhua)

## US Could Stay in Paris Climate Accord under Right Conditions: US Top Diplomat

WASHINGTON - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said on Sunday that the United States could stay in the Paris Agreement on climate change under right conditions. "Under the right conditions, the president said he's open to finding those conditions where we can remain engaged with others in what we all agree is a challenging issue," said Tillerson in an interview with CBS. Tillerson's remarks were in line with previous statements from the U.S. State Department which said that the United States is "open to re-engaging in the Paris Agreement if the United States can identify terms that are more favora-

ble to it, its business, its workers, its people, and its taxpayers." U.S. President Donald Trump on June 1 announced his decision to withdraw from Paris Agreement, citing concerns about the accord's threat to the U.S. economy as a main reason for the withdrawal. "The cost to the economy at this time (by 2040) would be close to 3 trillion U.S. dollars in lost GDP and 6.5 million industrial jobs," said Trump then, citing figures from a disputed study commissioned by the American Council for Capital Formation and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, both known for lobbying against climate regulations. (Xinhua)

## Russia Denies Pentagon's Allegation about Strike on Syrian Opposition

MOSCOW - The Russian Defense Ministry denied the Pentagon's allegations of a Russian Aerospace Force strike on the Syrian opposition near the Syrian city of Deir ez-Zor, a spokesman for the ministry said Sunday. "The priority targets for destruction are the terrorists' firing positions from which they are leading large-scale attacks on the Syrian forces," said the ministry's spokesman Igor Konashenkov, adding strikes on targets were based on reconnaissance information that is usually confirmed through multiple channels. The Russian intelligence services did not find any clashes between Islamic State (IS) terrorists and any armed representatives of "third forces." Thus "only representatives of the international coalition themselves could explain how opposition members made their way into the IS forces in Deir ez-Zor without fighting, Konashenkov said. The Russian spokesman also said that to avoid unnecessary escalation, command of the Russian forces in Syria using existing communication channels notified its U.S. counterparts in advance about the location of the military operation in Deir ez-Zor. The Pentagon said in a statement on Saturday that Russian forces struck a target east of the Euphrates River in Syria near Deir ez-Zor, causing injuries to the Syrian opposition which is also known as the Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF). The SDF, an alliance of Kurdish and Arab fighters, is supported by Washington. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### Senior CPC Official Calls on China, Vietnam to Turn Consensus into Actions

HANOI - Senior Communist Party of China (CPC) official Liu Yunshan Monday called on China and Vietnam to turn the consensus reached by the two countries' leaders into concrete actions. Liu, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the CPC Central Committee, arrived in Hanoi on Monday for an official visit to Vietnam at the invitation of the Communist Party of Vietnam (CPV). During talks here with Tran Quoc Vuong, a member of the Politburo of the CPV Central Committee, Secretary of the CPV Central Committee and Head of the Committee's Inspection Commission, Liu said Chinese President Xi Jinping, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, and General Secre-

tary of the CPV Central Committee Nguyen Phu Trong have provided important guiding opinions on the development of bilateral ties and reached broad consensus. The most important task for the two countries is to turn the consensus into concrete actions, he said. In order to fulfill the task, Liu made five-point suggestions, which include building a community of common destiny, strengthening high-level exchanges, promoting integration of development strategies and enhance practical cooperation, consolidating public support for bilateral ties, and properly managing differences and enhancing maritime cooperation so as to build a sound environment for the healthy and stable development of China-Vietnam relations. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan Ousted PM Nawaz Sharif's Wife Wins Parliamentary Seat

ISLAMABAD - Ousted Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's wife Kulsoom Nawaz has won parliamentary seat in a neck-and-neck by-election, according to unofficial results announced early Monday. The National Assembly's seat in Lahore, the capital of Punjab province, fell vacant after the country's top court removed Nawaz Sharif as prime minister over corruption charges in July. According to the unofficial results Kulsoom Nawaz secured 61,745

votes while her rival, Yasmeen Rashid of the opposition Pakistan Tehrik-e-Insaf (PTI) or Justice Movement bagged 47,099 votes, an election official said at a news conference Monday morning. Sheikh Azhar Hussain, an independent candidate, got 7,130 votes and placed third in the contest, which had assumed importance in the country's politics after Sharif's disqualification. The total turnout was 39.42 percent, according to the official. (Xinhua)

### Scrapping Nuclear Deal with Iran will be Clear Breach of Agreement: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the United States' potential withdrawal from a multilateral nuclear deal with Iran would constitute a clear non-performance of contractual obligations by Washington. Speaking at a meeting of Iranian expatriates in New York, where he is to attend the 72nd session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA), President Rouhani said Iran would give "the due response" to any such violation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). "Withdrawing from the JCPOA," he said, "would mean trampling on a clear political obligation that a government has. This is nothing to be proud of." He said Iranian people have always lived up to their word throughout

history but added that Iran would honor its obligations under the JCPOA as long as the other side honors its. "We will never initiate a violation of the international agreement, but if the other side wishes to assault the rights of the Iranian people, Iran will certainly give the due response," the Iranian president said. The JCPOA was struck in July 2015, after some 22 months of negotiations between Iran and six other countries. Iran agreed under the deal to apply certain limits to its nuclear program, and its partners - the US, Russia, China, Germany, France, and the United Kingdom - agreed in return to terminate a series of sanctions against the Islamic Republic, including those unilaterally imposed by individual countries. (Presstv)

### Kazakhstan has all Conditions for Effective Co-Op with Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan: Nazarbayev

TASHKENT - Today, Kazakhstan has all conditions for effective cooperation with Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev said. Nazarbayev made the remarks at a meeting with representatives of ethno-cultural associations of Kazakhstan's Jambyl Region, said a message posted on the presidential website Sept. 18. As part of his working visit to Jambyl, the president reviewed a new building of the House

of Friendship. President Nazarbayev arrived in Jambyl following the visits to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. "At present, there are all conditions for effective cooperation with neighbor countries," the president said. During his visits to Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan, President Nazarbayev met with his Uzbek counterpart Shavkat Mirziyoyev on Sept. 16 and his Turkmen counterpart Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov on Sept. 17. (Trend)