

Xi, Trump Talk Upcoming China Visit, Korean Peninsula over Phone

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping and his U.S. counterpart Donald Trump discussed Trump's visit to China later this year and the Korean Peninsula situation over phone late Monday.

In the phone conversation, Xi said China and the United States share extensive common interests and have seen sound momentum of exchanges and cooperation in various areas at present.

The Chinese president said that he is happy to maintain communications with Trump on a regular basis over topics of mutual concern.

He also said that Beijing attaches great importance to Trump's state visit to China, and called on



both sides to work closely so as to ensure a fruitful trip and inject new impetus into the development of China-U.S. relations.

The two sides need to strengthen high-level contacts and contacts at all levels, well operate the first round of China-U.S. social and cultural dialogue, as well as law enforcement and cyber security dialogue, and extend bilateral cooperation in all fields, Xi noted.

For his part, Trump said he is looking forward to paying the state visit to China, hoping that the trip can strongly move bilateral ties further forward. (Xinhua)

S. Korean Unification Minister Stresses Economic Cooperation with DPRK to Resolve Nuke Issue

SEOUL - South Korea's top policymaker in charge of affairs with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on Tuesday stressed the importance for inter-Korean economic cooperation to resolve the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon said at a forum in Seoul that the "New Korean Peninsula Economic Initiative," advocated by President Moon Jae-in, could be a solution to the nuclear

issue on the peninsula, saying efforts would be urgently needed to resolve it peacefully and fundamentally. The initiative was championed by Moon, who took office in May, during his campaign trail to improve relations with the DPRK through economic cooperation in three major economic zones, including those in the East and West Seas and inside the demilitarized zone (DMZ) dividing the two sides. (Xinhua)

Failure to Curb Web Terrorism Contributes to Security Loopholes in Britain

LONDON - Britain has suffered five terrorist attacks over the past six months. As British police are investigating into the latest terrorist explosion at a subway station in west London four days ago, a report published Tuesday gave some clues to a high frequency of terrorist attacks in the United Kingdom.

Terrorist groups are taking advantage of hi-tech progress to spread extremist propaganda online in a bid to encourage their sympathizers

to stage attacks in Britain and other western countries, with low-tech skills, including making an improvised explosive device at home. Online jihadist propaganda attracts more clicks in Britain in any other European country and the main internet companies are failing to curb it, said the report published by the Policy Exchange think tank. After being brainwashed, an individual sympathizer can become "a lone wolf". Self-starters



and those acting alone can easily view material that encourages them to launch low-cost attacks. The terrorist attack on Parsons Green subway station involving an ex-

ploded device that can be built from instructions available online underlined once again challenges Britain faces from the Islamic State, also known as IS or ISIS. (Xinhua)

Paris Accord "Badly Negotiated": U.S. Official: Trump



NEW YORK - U.S. President Donald Trump told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron here on Monday that he believed the Paris climate

agreement was "badly negotiated" and was unfair to the United States, said a U.S. official. Trump talked about the consequence of the Paris

deal for American workers, American industries and the American economy, said Brian Hook, director of policy at the U.S. State Department, at a press briefing in New York. Hook, who attended the meeting, said that Trump did not believe that the Paris agreement is "a framework to achieve those goals around clean energy, protecting the environment, and promoting economic growth."

Hook added. Trump was very open to considering a number of different options, as long as they are fair to America's interests, which include promoting the economy and protecting the environment, the official said. Trump and Macron held talks Monday on the sidelines of the annual U.N. General Assembly. (Xinhua)

May to Gather Divided Cabinet Ahead of Brexit Speech

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May will hold a special cabinet meeting on the eve of her Brexit speech, a spokesman said Tuesday, as she seeks to bring her ministers in line behind her EU strategy. She called Thursday's meeting after Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson set out his own vision of life outside the European Union, prompting a colleague to accuse him of "backseat driving". "There will be a cabinet meeting on Thursday morning ahead of the speech on Friday", when May will provide

an update on her Brexit plans in Florence, Italy, a Downing Street spokesman told AFP. Johnson faced claims of trying to force the prime minister's hand after publishing a 4,000-word article in the Daily Telegraph newspaper calling for a clean break with the EU after Brexit. Addressing one of the most contentious issues in negotiations with Brussels, he said Britain should not continue paying into the EU budget after Brexit, even as the price of continued access to Europe's single market. (AFP)

US to 'Totally Destroy' N.Korea if Threatened

NEW YORK - President Donald Trump says the United States will have no choice but to "totally destroy" North Korea if the U.S. is forced to defend itself or its allies against the North's aggression. In his first address to the U.N. General Assembly, Trump says the North Korean government is a "depraved regime." Trump is calling on other nations to work together to isolate North Korea until it ceases what he says is its hostile behavior. But if forced to defend itself or its allies against North Korea's continued threats, Trump says "we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." (AP)

Russia's State Arms Trader Signs Contracts to Export 100,000 AK Rifles in 2017

MOSCOW - Russia's sole state arms exporter Rosoboronexport has signed seven contracts to deliver over 100,000 AK weapons to foreign markets this year, the company said Tuesday. "Asia-Pacific, Middle Eastern, African and Latin American countries are interested in the AK assault rifles.

In 2017, we have concluded seven contracts for supplies of more than 100,000 of various AK weapons and have entered talks on supplies of the rifles with a number of other customers," Rosoboronexport's CEO Alexander Mikheev said at an unveiling ceremony of a monument dedicated to the prestigious designer of the AK series Mikhail Kalashnikov. This year marks the 70th anniversary of the birth of the legendary AK-47 rifle, which represents the masterpiece among the small arms Kalashnikov designed. (Xinhua)

Sisi Meets Netanyahu at UN in Bid to Break Peace Talks Stalemate

CAIRO - Egypt's President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have met for the first time in public in a bid to break peace talks stalemate, official MENA news agency reported on Tuesday. Egyptian authorities said in a statement the two had met on Monday ahead of the UN General Assembly in New York. Sisi separately met with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas at his residency, where they agreed to continue working toward a two-state



solution. The meeting came just days after Egypt helped broker an agreement with the Palestinian Hamas group to dissolve the administration that runs Gaza and hold talks with Abbas' Fatah movement, its Palestinian ri-

vals. For much of the last decade, Egypt has joined Israel in enforcing a land, sea and air blockade of the Gaza Strip, a move to punish Hamas, which has ruled Gaza since a brief Palestinian civil war in 2007. (Xinhua)

Abbas to Focus on U.S. Peace Initiative, Two-State Solution in UN Speech

RAMALLAH - A advisor of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said on Tuesday that Abbas will focus on the U.S. initiative to revive the peace process and the two-state solution in his upcoming keynote speech at the UN General Assembly on Wednesday. "Abbas will demand implementation of all international legitimacy resolutions concerning Israel and ending its occupation, although U.S. President Donald Trump has not mentioned clearly his position toward the two-state solution," Nabil Sha'ath, Abbas' advisor for international affairs, told official Palestinian radio station Voice

of Palestine. The U.S. has requested three to four months to present a peace initiative based on the ideas put forward by the American envoys during their recent meetings with Palestinian and Israeli leaders, Sha'ath noted.

Also on Tuesday, Palestinian Presidential Spokesman Nabil Abu Rdnah urged the international community to turn the Palestinian statehood bid into the reality on the ground. It is possible to achieve peace based on the resolutions of the international legitimacy "if the U.S. administration is determined to do so," he said. (Xinhua)

Six-Party Talks "Efficient Platform" to Address Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue: Chinese FM

BEIJING - China said Tuesday that the six-party talks are still an efficient platform to address the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang made the remarks at a routine press briefing, saying China is open to all efforts that are conducive to solving the issue peacefully via political and diplomatic means.

Lu said the joint statement, signed on Sept. 19, 2005, is the most important progress in addressing the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue through negotiations, and is of milestone significance.

The document was struck by China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the United States, the Republic of Korea (ROK), Russia and Japan during the fourth round of the six-party talks.

In the statement, the DPRK reaffirmed its commitment to abandoning nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs. In return, the United States promised not to use nuclear weapons or conventional weapons to attack or invade the DPRK.

Lu said the parties concerned should learn from experience in reaching the agreement, which includes holding that the core of the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue is over security issues, the key lies with the United States and the DPRK, and concerns of all parties should be resolved in a balanced way. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Xi Stresses Prevention, Control of Major Risks

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday stressed the importance of preventing and controlling major risks, as well as adherence to the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC).

Xi, also general secretary of the CPC Central Committee, made the remarks while meeting representatives from the comprehensive management of public security

sector across the country. Xi said people working in the sector should improve their political awareness and resolutely maintain the authority and unified leadership of the CPC Central Committee.

They should be sober-minded about the difficulties and challenges facing them, and resolutely prevent and control major risks, he said. (Xinhua)

Pakistan Aware of All External, Internal Challenges: Iqbal

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Minister for Interior Ahsan Iqbal on Tuesday said the incumbent government and security as well as law enforcement agencies were very much aware of all the internal as well external challenges being confronted by the country.

He stated this while responding to a Point of Order raised by Leader of the Opposition in Senate Ch. Aitzaz Ahsan.

It was regarding the revelations made by the former minister for Interior

during a TV interview that there were some serious threats to the country which were known only to four personalities including him and the former prime minister. The minister said all the challenges were very well known by cabinet and National Security Committee (NSC).

Pakistan was becoming stable both internally as well as economically and its opponents were afraid of its progress thus trying to hamper it, the minister said. (Monitoring Desk)

US Committed to No International Obligation: Rouhani

TEHRAN - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani says the United States has failed to remain committed to any of its international obligations, stressing that Washington is not a reliable country.

"Today, you can see that the US is trampling on its agreements with Cuba and other countries one after the other," Rouhani said in a meeting with Bolivia's President Evo Morales in New York on Monday. Rouhani pointed to the White House's intention to undermine the historic nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), reached between Iran and the P5+1 group of countries,

and said, "On the nuclear agreement, the Americans are looking for excuses and the world can see what Iran has repeatedly announced is true; that the US is not reliable." Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, France, Britain, Russia and China - plus Germany signed the nuclear agreement on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January 16, 2016. Under the JCPOA, Iran undertook to put limitations on its nuclear program in exchange for the removal of nuclear-related sanctions imposed against Tehran. (Presstv)

Independent Media Knocked out of Asian Games in Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - As Turkmenistan's dictatorship tries to boost its international image by hosting the Asian Indoor and Martial Arts Games, which began in Ashgabat on Sunday, Reporters Without Borders (RSF) points out that the regime persecutes the few remaining outspoken journalists and leaves no room for independent media. There is an enormous gulf between the postcard image promoted by the regime and the reality experienced by those who dare to criticize. Officially, the law proclaims freedom of expression and prohibits censorship, but in practice Turkmenistan is a news and information black hole. The state controls all the media and hounds the few remaining independent journalists, forcing them into hiding, with the result that Turkmenistan is ranked 178th out of 180 countries in RSF's 2017 World Press Freedom Index. (Agencies)

Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan Strengthening Inter-parliamentary Ties

ASHGABAT - The Turkmen parliament hosted a meeting with Azerbaijani delegation headed by Parliament Speaker Ogtagy Asadov, the Turkmen government said Sept. 19. During the meeting, the sides noted that the centuries-old traditions of good neighborliness, common history and spiritual values of the two fraternal peoples and the rapidly developing cooperation between Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan contribute to enhancing mutually beneficial inter-parliamentary relations.

They pointed out the importance of the meeting of Turkmenistan's President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov with the Azerbaijani parliament speaker, held in August during the Turkmen president's official visit to Baku. During the visit, Berdimuhamedov drew attention to the important role of both countries' MPs in the development of full-scale interstate dialogue. (Trend)