

UN General Assembly Focuses on Violence, Climate Threats

UNITED NATIONS - Nuclear weapons, refugees fleeing violence, terrorism and reform were the universal concerns expressed by speakers cutting across borders as the 72nd General Debate of the UN General Assembly kicked off at the UN headquarters Tuesday. The week-long annual session gives priority to development. This year's general debate is around the theme "Focusing on people." Some 90 heads of state, including a reigning monarch, more than 30 heads of government, four vice presidents, three deputy prime ministers and scores of ministers are scheduled to speak



before the assembly by next Monday, UN officials said. Listing rising insecurity, inequality and conflict, and the changing climate, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said, "Our world is in trouble. People are hurting and angry." He said the sense of global community was disintegrating, with societies fragmented and political discourse polarizing. "Trust within and among countries is being driven down by those who demonize and divide," the UN chief said in his annual report. (Xinhua)

Qatari Emir Calls for Peaceful Means to Solve Gulf Diplomatic Crisis

DOHA - Qatari Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has called for an international convention to settle its diplomatic crisis with Saudi-led Arab quartet through peaceful means, state-run Qatar News Agency reported Wednesday. "The blockade was imposed abruptly and without warning, prompting Qataris to consider it as a kind of treachery," Al Thani said in a speech at the opening of the 72nd Session of the United Nations General Assembly. He also re-

newed a call for dialogue based on mutual respect for the state's sovereignty to end the disputes. "It seems that those who planned and implemented it had envisaged that their move would cause a shocking and direct impact that will bring Qatar to its knees," the emir said. "Qatar has fought terrorism and the whole international community bears witness to that, and Qatar is still fighting it and will continue doing that," Al Thani said in his speech. (Xinhua)

Trump Talks Tough on DPRK, Iran in Debut UN Address

UNITED NATIONS - U.S. President Donald Trump on Tuesday pressured the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to give up its nuclear weapons program and signaled a possible end of the Iran nuclear deal in his first speech at the United Nations (UN) General Assembly. BLAST ON DPRK In his over-40-minute speech, Trump talked tough on the DPRK, warning that the United States "will have no choice but to totally destroy" the

country unless Pyongyang refrains from its nuclear tests and missile launches. Trump, who tossed threats against the DPRK in his tweets in the past months, said at the UN that DPRK leader Kim Jong Un was "on a suicide mission for himself and his regime." Tension on the Korean Peninsula has been escalating following a series of missile launches and the Sept. 3 nuclear test conducted by Pyongyang. The UN Security Council



unanimously adopted a resolution on Sept. 11 to impose new sanctions on the DPRK over its latest nuclear test. However, the Korean Peninsula crisis should be solved through a political process, said UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres in his debut address to the UN General Assembly, just minutes before Trump's remarks. (Xinhua)

S. Korea to Cooperate with U.S. over Peaceful Resolution of Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue



SEOUL - South Korea vowed to continue close cooperation with the United States to peacefully resolve the Korean Peninsula's nuclear issue after U.S. President

Donald Trump made a combative speech at the UN General Assembly about the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). An unnamed South Ko-

rean foreign ministry official was quoted by Yonhap news agency Wednesday as saying that South Korea and the United States will continue close cooperation and consultation, like in the past, to achieve the common goal of peacefully resolving the nuclear issue on the Korean Peninsula. The comment followed the U.S. president's debut speech at the UN General Assembly, in which he said his country "will have no choice but to totally destroy" the DPRK if it is forced to defend itself

or its allies. The South Korean official told local reporters that President Trump's speech was to re-confirm the common position of South Korea and the United States to make the DPRK realize that the denuclearization is the only way left to the country. The official was quoted as saying Trump, as U.S. president, allotted an unusually long time to expressing his stance on the DPRK, which showed how seriously the U.S. government took the issue. (Xinhua)

EU Seeks Post-Brexit Powers over Foreign Finance Firms

BRUSSELS - The EU on Wednesday unveiled plans for sweeping new powers over foreign financial firms in Europe that would give the bloc strict oversight over the London financial hub after Brexit. The draft law, presented by European Commission vice-president Valdis Dombrovskis, is intended to toughen EU financial rules and better coordinate national regulation on banking and trading in Europe. "In the context of Brexit, we had to ... ensure that there is not a supervi-

sory race to the bottom to attract business from London," Dombrovskis told a news conference in Brussels. Though Brexit negotiations are still ongoing, insiders expect that Britain and its London financial hub will mainly function in Europe under this regime once the EU divorce is completed, officially in March 2019. "We want to make cross border operations easier for companies, more effective to monitor for supervisors, and more trustworthy for consumers," Dombrovskis said. (AFP)

Russia Starts Air Defense Radar Drills in Far East

MOSCOW - Russia's Eastern Military District has started special tactical exercises for its radar units in the country's Far Eastern regions, the Russian Defense Ministry said Wednesday. "The aim of the exercises is to improve the air defense control system," the ministry said in a statement. Radar specialists will perform tasks of deployment and topographical location of Nebo and Nebo-SVU modern radar complexes in the Amur and Primorsky Krai regions. Servicemen will practice sighting, capturing and tracking different air targets of a simulated enemy, it said. About 500 soldiers, 40 automobiles and special vehicles will be involved in the drills. (Xinhua)

Turkey Slams U.S., Germany on "Covert Embargo" of Defense Supply

ANKARA - Turkish Defense Minister Nurettin Canikli slammed U.S. and German firms' "covert embargo" on Ankara by not supplying spare parts of defense products, local media reported. Canikli said, quoted by state-run Anadolu Agency, many firms from the United States and Germany do not give or delay delivering spare parts needed in the defense products. The defense minister added that the "covert embargo" was imposed on his country despite that Turkey pays in cash, while the firms "are very generous to terrorist organizations," Canikli said, referring to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Democratic Union Party (PYD). The decision came after violence erupted between Erdogan's security personnel and PKK supporters outside the White House during his visit in May. (AP)

Russia to Take Special Measures if US Withdraws from INF Treaty

MOSCOW - Russia may prepare an adequate response if the United States decides to withdraw from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, a Russian official said Tuesday. An adequate response will be prepared in order to ensure security of Russia, including with the possibility of using its air defense systems, Frants Klintsevich, the first deputy chairman of Russia's Federation Council Committee on Defense and Security, told RIA Novosti news agency. "If the United States



withdraw from the INF Treaty, Russia will surely take specific measures with the creation of similar weapons related to the intermediate-range and shorter-range missiles with a range of up to 1,500 kilometers," he said. The comment came after the U.S. Senate passed a new defense policy on Monday authorizing the Defense Department to start developing a new cruise missile with a range of between 500 to 5,500 kilometers. (Xinhua)

Most Russians Want Putin to be President Again: Poll

MOSCOW - Most Russians want President Vladimir Putin to remain in office, while some are ready to support any successor backed by Putin, a poll showed Wednesday. According to the poll conducted by the Moscow-based Levada Center on Aug. 18-22, 60 percent of the 1,600 Russians surveyed in 48 regions said they would vote for Putin if a presidential election took place on the nearest weekend. The poll also showed 67 percent of the respondents answered positively to the question "Do you want Putin to head Russia after 2018?" Meanwhile, 18 percent of the surveyed were ready to

support an imaginary presidential candidate made up by the Levada Center, who said Putin backed this candidate. With inherent restrictions in sociological surveys, it's safe to say that the poll can indicate only one thing, namely absolute trust in Putin and his policies, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. Russia will hold a presidential election on March 18, 2018. Putin has yet to announce whether he will run for a new term. Putin, 64, was elected as Russian president in 2000 and re-elected in 2004. He became president again in 2012 after serving as prime minister for four years. (Xinhua)

Trump Signaled Dislike, but not Demise of Iran Deal: Envoy

UNITED NATIONS - U.S. President Donald Trump is unhappy with the Iran nuclear deal but has not signaled he will abandon it, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations said on Wednesday as she pressed Tehran to halt ballistic missile tests and stop supporting terrorism and arms smuggling. "It's not a clear signal that he plans to withdraw. What it is, is a clear signal that he's not happy with the deal," the envoy, Nikki Haley, told CBS News of Trump's pugnacious speech to the U.N. General Assembly on Tuesday in which he called the 2015 international accord an "embarrassment." Trump hinted in his speech that he may not recertify the agreement, negotiated by his predecessor, Barack Obama. "I don't think you've heard the last of it," he said. Haley spoke ahead of Iranian President Hassan Rouhani's speech before the annual gathering of world leaders in which he is expected to respond to Trump's accusations that Iran exports "violence, bloodshed and chaos." Tehran on Tuesday denounced Trump's remarks as "shameless and ignorant" and said he ignored "Iran's fight against terrorism." The U.S. president must decide by Oct. 15 whether to certify that Iran is complying with the pact, a decision that could sink the deal. If he does not, the U.S. Congress has 60 days to decide whether to re-impose sanctions waived under the accord. (Reuters)

Neighbor News

Chinese FM Urges Deepened Practical Cooperation with Britain

UNITED NATIONS - Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi on Tuesday urged further practical cooperation with Britain to strengthen the "golden era" of bilateral relations. In a meeting with his British counterpart Boris Johnson, Wang said this year marks the 45th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Britain. The two countries should continue to work together to maintain high-level contacts, deepen practical cooperation in order to carry forward the "golden era" of bilateral relations, said Wang. China appreciates Britain's support for the Belt and Road Initiative. The two countries

should work together to safeguard the multilateral trade system with the World Trade Organization at its core. They should send out positive signals of building an open global economy and opposing protectionism. Wang expressed the hope that Britain can create favorable conditions for Chinese investment. Johnson said China is a major country with broad international influence. Britain and China hold common or similar views on a series of important international issues. They have common stance and common interests in promoting free trade and maintaining market access, he said. (Xinhua)

Mamnoon Stresses Strong Pak-Swiss Ties in Trade, Education

ISLAMABAD - President Mamnoon Hussain on Wednesday stressed strengthening of bilateral trade between Pakistan and Switzerland and emphasized on enhancing ties in cultural and educational fields. The President said this while talking to the Ambassador-designate of Pakistan to Switzerland Ahmad Naseem Waraich, who called on him here at the Aiwan-e-Sadr. The President said focus should be laid on acquiring Swiss scholarships for Pakistani students so as to help them provide better opportunities for

higher education. He underlined that Swiss investment in agricultural sector would be encouraged in view of ample and attractive opportunities for investment. He directed that efforts should be made to enhance cooperation between the Red Cross and Red Crescent to promote welfare activities. The President said the international community should be realized that Pakistan was the worst victim of terrorism, however had largely overcome this menace. (Monitoring Desk)

Iran Needs Defensive Weapons to Protect Nation: Rouhani

TERHAN - President Hassan Rouhani has rejected US criticism of Iran's national missile program, vowing that the Islamic Republic will not hesitate to strengthen its defense capabilities against the backdrop of regional and global threats. At a Tuesday meeting with US media representatives in New York, Rouhani said, "Our people cannot stand by idly in the face of regional threats. Iran's missiles serve defense purposes." Rouhani further said no one can argue that "Iran should not defend itself or manufacture the weapons it needs while regional countries are in possession of state-of-the-art weapons." The Iranian nation continues to produce

"missiles and defensive weapons," said the Iranian chief executive, stressing that "the government's biggest responsibility is to defend people and national security." He further said Iran's national defense program was being subjected to intensive debates amid a deafening silence over the weapons being used on a daily basis against innocent civilians in Yemen. The Iranian president also touched on Iran's nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and noted that the agreement has led to "better interactions between Iran, regional states, the European Union and other countries." (Presstv)

Tashkent to Host 'Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-2017' Business Forum

TASHKENT - "Uzbekistan-Kyrgyzstan-2017" business forum and exhibition will be held in Tashkent October 5-6, said a message posted on the website of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). According to the message, the events will be held within Kyrgyz President Almazbek Atambayev's state visit. The forum organizers expect a lot of visitors from Tashkent and nearby regions of Uzbekistan to attend the forum. The forum and exhibition will be also held to

strengthen a friendly dialogue between the countries. The forum participants will have the opportunity to establish contacts, showcase their products or services, find partners and get full information about the market. The exhibition will cover tourism, agriculture, IT, mining and other sectors. Meanwhile, the Kyrgyz-Uzbek business forum was held in Bishkek on September 5 within Uzbek President Shavkat Mirziyoyev's state visit to Kyrgyzstan. (Trend)