

Germany's Angela Merkel Supports Us-Iran Talks but Says Lifting Sanctions First Is 'Not Realistic'

NEW YORK - German Chancellor Angela Merkel encouraged talks between the United States and Iran Tuesday but said she felt it was "not realistic" for President Trump to lift sanctions on Tehran before a formal meeting between the two adversaries.

"I would welcome it if it came to talks between the U.S. and Iran but it won't work that all sanctions are first taken off the table and then there are talks," Merkel said on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York, after speaking to both Trump and Iranian President Hassan Rouhani. "I think that is not realistic."

Trump has flip-flopped on



whether to meet with Rouhani to renegotiate the terms of the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), most recently recoiling from a potential meeting after key oil facilities in Saudi

Arabia were attacked on Sept. 14. The U.S., along with Britain, France and Germany, joined in condemning Iran for the attacks and placed heavier sanctions on the Islamic Republic, which has de-

nied responsibility for the attack.

Rouhani and Trump have remained at an impasse since Trump pulled out of the nuclear deal last year, increasing tensions between Washington and Tehran as Iran's economy continues to suffer under the weight of U.S. sanctions. The value of Iran's currency has plummeted by about 60 percent in the last year. Inflation is up 37 percent and the cost of food and medicine has soared between 40 percent and 60 percent, according to European Union figures. Iran has also continued to stockpile and enrich uranium beyond the bounds of the agreement and is using ... (More on P4)...(9)

\$466,400 in Cash Found in Plane Toilet at Sudan Airport

KHARTOUM - Cash amounting to \$466,420 in numerous currencies was found hidden in the toilet of a plane at Sudan's Khartoum International Airport.

The cash was discovered by an air hostess who found the funds stored in a black plastic bag. According to the Sudanese website Al-Intibaha, the money is valued at 21 million Sudanese pounds (\$466,427).

The hostess first thought that the bag had a bomb inside in, which prompted her to call the

airport's security staff. After the inspection, it turned out the bag had cash in foreign currencies.

It has not been revealed who the funds belong to. Popular protests broke out across Sudan in late 2018 against the difficult living conditions, leading to the ousting of President Omar Al-Bashir last April ending his 30-year reign. Earlier this month, a new, transitional government was formed by Prime Minister Abdallah Hamdok. (MEM)

MOSCOW - Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro announced in a tweet on Tuesday that he has arrived in Russia. "We have arrived in the Russian motherland in order to strengthen our historic and extremely positive relations and the respect between our nations," he wrote on Twitter, publishing a photograph from the airport.

He said that the fraternal relations that Moscow and Caracas have built over the years "are the fundamental axis for

Maduro Announces Arrival in 'Russian Motherland'

building a flourishing future for Venezuela". Previously the Venezuelan leader said that during his visit to Russia he would meet with Russian President Vladimir Putin and with Russian businessmen. He said that they intend to discuss the dynamics of bilateral relations and to look for new ways to cooperate in the economy, the social sphere and in culture.

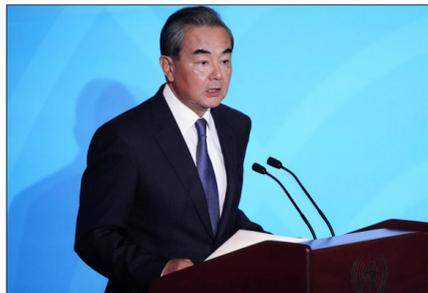
Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov said that the two presidents would meet on Septem-



ber 25. The talks will take place in Sochi on the sidelines of the Valdai Club. There, Putin will also meet with the

presidents of the Philippines and Kazakhstan, Rodrigo Duterte and Kassym-Jomart ... (More on P4)...(10)

China Says Has No Intent to Play 'Game of Thrones' but Warns on Sovereignty



NEW YORK - China's top diplomat hit back at U.S. criticism of its trade and development model on Tuesday, saying Beijing had no inten-

tion to "play the Game of Thrones on the world stage" but warned Washington to respect its sovereignty, including in Hong Kong.

Wang Yi, China's foreign minister and state counselor, said Beijing would not bow to threats, including on trade, though he said he hoped a round of high-level trade talks next month would produce positive results.

In a speech on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly in New York - which Wang is expected to address on Friday - he urged a move away from confrontation between the two biggest global economies, say-

ing they should cooperate for mutual benefit and for that of rest of the world.

Earlier on Tuesday, U.S. President Donald Trump had a stern message for China and its president, Xi Jinping, in his speech at the U.N. General Assembly, saying that the United States would no longer tolerate Beijing's trade practices and that he would not accept a "bad deal" with China on trade.

He also warned that ... (More on P4)...(11)

Boris Johnson Tells the UN Brexit Is Like Having One's Liver Pecked Out by an Eagle for All Eternity

LONDON - British Prime Minister Boris Johnson on Tuesday equated his country's impending departure from the European Union to having one's liver pecked out by an eagle for all of eternity.

In his address to the United Nations General Assembly Tuesday evening, Johnson used the Greek myth about the titan Prometheus to talk about the potential dangers of artificial intelligence. Zeus punishes Prometheus for stealing fire, a godlike

technology, by chaining him to a mountain where his liver is pecked out by an eagle every night only to regrow during the day and be plucked out again.

"This went on forever," Johnson said, recounting the tale. "A bit like the experience of Brexit in the UK, if some of our Parliamentarians have their way." Johnson addressed a half-empty chamber around 10 p.m. following a tumultuous ... (More on P4)...(14)

Neighbor News

Iran Ready to Accept Nuclear Deal Changes If U.S. Returns, Lifts Sanctions: Spokesman

DUBAI - Iran is willing to give reassurances on not seeking nuclear arms and accept changes to its 2015 nuclear accord with world power if the United States returns to the deal and lifts sanctions, a government spokesman said on Wednesday.

"If the sanctions are

ended and there is a return to the (nuclear) accord, there is room for giving reassurances toward breaking the deadlock and the President (Hassan Rouhani) has even a proposal for small changes in the accord," the spokesman, Ali Rabiee, said on state TV. (Reuters)

'Time for The World to Act': Pakistan's Khan Warns Kashmir Row Could Spill over into New War with India

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Imran Khan said the ongoing dispute over Kashmir could kick off another conflict with India, and slammed the country for what he called "oppressive" policies in the contested region.

Speaking at a press conference at the United Nations headquarters in New York on Tuesday, Khan spoke in grave terms about the situation in Kashmir and warned of the chances for a new war with India, Pakistan's longtime regional rival.

"I came out to New York only because I felt that unless we highlight what is going on in Kashmir, the world is not going to know," the PM said, adding that the dispute over the region creates "a potential that two nuclear-armed countries could come face-to-face."

"This is the time for the world to act, before this goes too far, because this is the first time after the Cuban [missile] crisis that two nuclear-armed countries" would square

off on the world stage, he said.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, one in 1947 soon after the partition of India, and another in 1965. Pakistan currently controls a strip of the territory on its western extremity.

In August, the Indian government moved to revoke Kashmir's special autonomous status, dispatching thousands of soldiers to the region in preparation for unrest which was expected following the decision. While many observers have sounded the alarm over potential abuses of Kashmir's Muslim majority, New Delhi argues the move was necessary in order to fully integrate the region into India and to bring about economic development.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi celebrated the decision as "historic," arguing it would cut down on local corruption and "nepotism," and allow Kashmiris to "elect [their] representatives in a transparent way." (RT)

Tashkent Hosts The 14th Meeting of Uzbekistan - EU Subcommittee

TASHKENT - Tashkent hosts the 14th meeting of Uzbekistan - EU Subcommittee on Economics, Trade and Investments, Uzbekistan MFA reports.

Delegation of the European External Action Service, led by the Managing Director of

the Central Asia Department Boris Yaroshevich, arrived in Uzbekistan to attend the meeting.

Uzbekistan delegation is led by Deputy Minister of Investment and Foreign Trade Shukhrat Vafayev. (Agencies)

Turkmen President Proposes Constitutional Reform

ASHGABAT - President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov proposed an initiative for the transition to a two chamber system and the unification of the interests of all sectors of the Turkmen society and creating the conditions for supervision in law enforcement practice.

This will give an impetus to closer interaction of deputies with voters and strengthening control over the implementation of laws and national programs, the president was quoted as saying.

As reported, Berdimuhamedov signed a decree on the creation of the Constitutional Commission to introduce relevant amendments and additions to the basic law of Turkmenistan. Relevant proposals on the formation of a bicameral parliament will be considered at the next meeting of the Halk Maslahaty of Turkmenistan, which will be held in 2020. (Trend)

Uptick in Turkish Exports, Tourism Comes at A Price

ISTANBUL - A notable aspect of the crisis-hit Turkish economy in recent months is the improvement in exports and tourism, which, along with increased public spending, has helped limit the second-quarter contraction to 1.5%. The uptick, however, has come at a price, with exporters and the tourism industry cutting prices, atop the sharp depreciation of the Turkish lira. The July-September period is likely to mark the fourth quarter in a row that the Turkish economy has shrunk in year-on-year terms. The plummeting of investments has been the primary driver of contraction, followed by the decline in household spending or private domestic demand. Though the ruling Justice and Development ... (More on P4)...(15)

Tokayev Invites Zelensky to Visit Kazakhstan

NUR-SULTAN - President of Kazakhstan Kassym Jomart Tokayev and President of Ukraine Volodymyr Zelensky held a meeting at the United Nations headquarters in New York, US, Trend reports with reference to the press office of Kazakh President.

Tokayev and Zelensky exchanged mutual congratulations on the occasion of their election.

The president of Kazakhstan noted similarities of history and the commonality of future of both countries. He expressed readiness for future expansion of cooperation with Ukraine in politics, trade and economy, having noted many great opportunities in this area.

Following the end of the meeting, Tokayev and Zelensky invited each other to exchange visits. (Trend)

South Korea Says 'Good Chance' of Kim Jong Un Visit in November

SEOUL - South Korea expects there is a "good possibility" Kim Jong Un could visit Busan in November, according to multiple press reports on Wednesday.

Sources at the presidential Blue House expressed optimism about a Kim visit to the South, despite a lack of inter-Korea dialogue in recent months, Yonhap reported.

The report comes a day after South Korean spy agency chief Suh Hoon told a parliamentary intelligence committee the North Korean leader could visit Busan, the South's second-largest city, for the ASEAN-South Korea Commem-



orative Summit in November. At the meeting on Tuesday, Suh reportedly said, "Would [Chairman Kim] not come, depending on how denuclearization negotiations proceed?"

Suh also said at the meeting there is a "significant possibility" U.S.-North Korea talks could resume within

two to three weeks.

Blue House sources confirmed they maintain a "positive outlook" on the possibility of a Kim visit during the ASEAN summit, according to News 1.

North Korea has signaled an interest in resuming working-level talks with the United States. The statements ... (More on P4)...(12)

Climate Activist Greta Thunberg Wins 'Alternative Nobel Prize'

STOCKHOLM - Swedish teenage climate activist Greta Thunberg was named on Wednesday as one of four winners of the 2019 Right Livelihood Award, known as Sweden's alternative Nobel Prize.

Thunberg won the award "for inspiring and amplifying political demands for urgent climate action reflecting scientific facts," the Right Livelihood Foundation said in a statement.

Thunberg, 16, denounced world leaders on Monday for failing to tackle climate change in a speech at the start of a climate summit at the United Nations in New York.

She started solitary weekly protests outside Swedish parliament a year ago. Inspired by her, millions of young people poured onto streets around the world last Friday to demand ... (More on P4)...(13)