

Nuclear Threats, Refugees, Climate Dominate General Debate of UN General Assembly

UNITED NATIONS - The 72nd UN General Assembly general debate -- the annual VIP session -- ended here on Monday, with concern over nuclear weaponry on the Korean Peninsula and the Rohingya refugees in Myanmar among the leading topics. But they failed to foresee U.S. President Donald Trump's heated response to threats from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to attack the United States, the return threats and reaction. Trump said that if Washington "is forced to defend itself or its allies, we will have no choice but to totally destroy North Korea." Many nations voiced offense



that such a direct threat would be voiced from the podium in the house of diplomacy. On Saturday, Foreign Minister Simon Coveney of Ireland was one of those who objected to such rhetoric, saying he "unreservedly condemns the recent series of missile and nuclear weapons testing by the DPRK." "I will be followed today on the podium by the representative from the DPRK and I would urge him to de-escalate the provocative language and tensions of this week," he said. "This is a conflict that the world does not need and that we need to move away from." (Xinhua)

AL Chief Voices Sorrow over Iraqi Kurdistan Referendum

CAIRO - Arab League (AL) Chief Ahmad Abul Gheit expressed his sorrow on Tuesday over holding an independence referendum of Iraqi Kurdistan region, the AL said in a statement. He also voiced deep concerns over the repercussions of running the referendum despite all the intensive Arab and international efforts to prevent it to avoid more deteriorations of the conditions in Iraq, said the statement. The Iraqi Kurds on Monday ended their vote in a referendum that will

determine the independence of the Kurdish region and the disputed areas amid threats and rejection from Baghdad and neighboring countries. "Still, it's possible to contain the repercussions of that procedure if all the concerned parties enjoy wisdom and responsibility regarding Iraq," added the AL top diplomat. Neighboring countries such as Turkey, Iran and Syria see that such a step would threaten their territorial integrity, as larger populations of Kurds live in those countries. (Xinhua)

Brexit Negotiations Not Ready for Next Stage Yet, EU's Tusk Says

LONDON - Sufficient progress has not yet been made in Brexit talks to allow negotiations to move to the next phase of discussing the future relationship including trade, European Council President Donald Tusk said on Tuesday. After a meeting in Downing Street with British Prime Minister Theresa May, Tusk said he welcomed a new constructive and realistic tone from the government, adding that "this shows that the philosophy of having a cake

and eating it is finally coming at an end - at least I hope so." He added: "We will discuss our future relations with the UK once there is so-called sufficient progress. The sides are working and we work hard at it. But if you ask me... I would say there's no sufficient progress yet, but we will work on it." Britain wants to move divorce talks on from settling budget commitments with the bloc and issues such as the future



status of EU citizens living in the UK to discussions about future trade relations. May, who hoped to give the negotiations a shot in the arm with a speech in Florence last week, earlier told Tusk that Britain and EU could make Brexit a success if the two sides were creative. (Reuters)

Nieghbor News

Xi Says International Community Must Cooperate on Global Security

BEIJING - China hopes to work closely with countries and international organizations on global security, and jointly build universal security for humankind, Chinese President Xi Jinping said here Tuesday. Xi made the remarks in Beijing while addressing the opening ceremony of the 86th Interpol General Assembly. He spoke highly of Interpol's important role in global law enforcement, security cooperation and combating crimes. Since becoming a member state of Interpol in 1984, China has been committed to developing cooperation with Interpol and other member states, and contributed to maintaining world security and stability, Xi said. In order to beef up global

law enforcement and security cooperation, Xi proposed enhanced reform and innovation, sticking to the rule of law and mutual benefits. "Countries should adopt a concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and jointly respond to security challenges," he said. Xi asked to promote global security governance in a more fair, reasonable and effective way. "Countries and inter-governmental organizations should shoulder the main responsibilities of security governance, while non-governmental organizations, multinationals and civil society are encouraged to jointly work for it," he said. (Xinhua)

Pakistan to Host Speaker's Conference on "Terrorism in Region": Ayaz

ISLAMABAD - Speaker National Assembly Sardar Ayaz Sadiq Tuesday said that Pakistan was focusing how to tackle terrorism in the region and how to connect with each other. For this purpose, National Assembly of Pakistan is planning to host a conference in December 2017 and the Speakers from China, Russia, Turkey, Iran and Afghanistan will attend the conference, said a press release issued here Tuesday. He was talking to the delegation of Baluchistan Assembly headed by Speaker Ms. Rahila Hameed Khan Durrani. Members Provincial Assembly and the senior officers were also present in the meeting.

He said that terrorism and extremism was now an international issue and this was the right time to fight against this menace collectively. Baluchistan was also the victim of terrorism, he said adding "We are committed to identify our enemy who spoil peace and harmony. That day is not far when we will root out these evils very soon." The Speaker said that development and prosperity in Baluchistan was the priority of the present democratic set up. He stressed the need for closer liaison between the democratic institutions for strengthening democratic process in the country. (Monitoring Desk)

UN Says 480,000 in Latest Rohingya Exodus to Bangladesh



COX'S BAZAR, Bangladesh - Some 480,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled to Bangladesh since violence broke out in Myanmar on August 25, the

United Nations said Tuesday, increasing its estimate by 45,000 in two days. A report by UN agencies and international charities said the change was due

largely to an estimated 35,000 Rohingya, who had not previously been accounted for, moving into two refugee camps. It also said numbers crossing the border had started to rise again. The UN gave a figure of more than 435,000 Rohingya arrivals on Saturday. After reporting a significant fall in arrivals last week the new report said hundreds had been crossing the border daily in recent days. A 2,000 acre (eight square

kilometer) space near existing camps has been set aside to house the new arrivals but no facilities have yet been built. Attacks by Rohingya militants in Myanmar's Rakhine state on August 25 sparked a military backlash and the exodus across the border to Bangladesh. Refugee camps and makeshift settlements on the Bangladesh side of the border already hosted some 300,000 Rohingya before the latest violence, and are now completely overwhelmed. (AFP)

S.Korean President to Meet Opposition Party Leaders to Discuss Security Issues

SEOUL - South Korean President Moon Jae-in will hold a meeting with opposition party leaders on Wednesday to discuss security issues amid rising geopolitical tensions on the Korean Peninsula, the presidential Blue House said Tuesday. The meeting will be held Wednesday evening in the presidential complex, with chiefs of the ruling Democratic Party, the centrist People's Party, the minor conservative Righteous Party and the minor liberal Justice Party in attendance. Head of

the main opposition Liberty Korea Party refused to join the meeting. Jun Byung-hun, a senior presidential secretary for political affairs, told reporters that the main issues to be discussed would be about security and bi-partisan countermeasures amid grave security situations on the peninsula. He urged the Liberty Korea Party chief to attend the Blue House meeting, saying ruling and opposition parties must not be divided in dealing with security issues. (Xinhua)

Macron Seeks to Marry EU Vision with Reality of German Politics

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron will attempt to marry his vision for Europe with the reality of German politics on Tuesday as he delivers a speech at the Sorbonne laying out plans for overhauling Europe's single currency zone. Less than five months into his presidency, and having long promised to work with German Chancellor Angela Merkel on deepening euro zone integration with ideas for a standalone budget and finance minister, Macron's ambitions face being sharply curtailed following Sunday's German election result. While still the largest bloc in the Bundestag, Merkel's CDU/CSU conservative alliance secured fewer votes than expected and will likely have to strike a coalition deal with the liberal Free Democrats (FDP) and the Greens to form a government.

The fiscally conservative FDP has made clear its opposition to many of Macron's proposals, disliking the idea of a euro zone budget or any facility that may lead to financial transfers from wealthier euro zone countries to poorer ones, or the possibility of national debt being pooled. The FDP has also called for a phasing out of Europe's ESM bailout fund - which Macron wants to turn into a European Monetary Fund with preemptive powers to help out struggling countries - and wants to see changes to EU treaties that would allow countries to leave the euro zone. "A budget can only go hand-in-hand with strong political leadership led by a common (finance) minister and a strong parliamentary supervision at the European level," he said, emphasizing the need for democratic accountability. (Reuters)

U.S. Defense Secretary Arrives in New Delhi on Two-Day Visit

NEW DELHI - U.S. Defense Secretary James Mattis arrived in New Delhi on a two-day visit to India, officials said Tuesday. Mattis was received by Indian Defense Minister Nirmala Sitharaman in New Delhi. "U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis began his two-day visit from today," an official said. "Mattis is scheduled to meet Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the day."



According to officials, Sitharaman and Mattis will hold discussions to boost bilateral ties. Mattis will also meet Indian National Security Advisor Ajit

Doval during his visit, the officials said. Reports said Mattis's visit is the first cabinet-level visit to India under the Donald Trump administration. (Xinhua)

Bulgarian Deputy PM Calls for Closer NATO-EU Cooperation Amid Global Threats

SOFIA - Bulgaria's Deputy Prime Minister Krasimir Karakachanov here on Tuesday said NATO and the European Union (EU) should deepen their cooperation amid global threats and increasing unpredictability. The strategic environment is characterized by growing unpredictability and extreme dynamics, and globalization remains a leading trend that continues to affect the external security context, Karakachanov said in an opening address to the international conference "Future Armed Forces 2040." Active and successful interaction between NATO and the EU is crucial for their ability to successfully meet future challenges, said Karakachanov who is

also defense minister. In order to better address the new risks and threats, the two organizations need to achieve more practical cooperation, he said. More active exchange of information and conducting joint analyses of the strategic environment are needed, as well as the implementation of multinational capacity-building projects within NATO and the EU, joint use of infrastructure and technical facilities, and cooperation in training, Karakachanov said. More than 80 experts are participating in the two-day conference, organized by the Defense Advanced Research Institute of Bulgaria's G. S. Rakovski National Defense College. (Xinhua)

White House Says U.S. Has not Declared War on DPRK

NEW YORK - The United States has not declared war on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), the White House said on Monday, in response to remarks of the DPRK's top diplomat. "Last weekend, Trump claimed that our leadership wouldn't be around much longer. He declared a war on our country," Ri Yong-ho, the DPRK foreign minister, told reporters earlier in New York. "The whole world should clearly remember it was the U.S. who first declared war on our country," Ri said, referring to Trump's tweet message on Saturday.

In response, the White House denied that the United States had declared war on Pyongyang. "We have not declared war on North Korea and frankly the suggestion of that is absurd," White House spokesperson Sarah Sanders told a regular briefing in Washington. "Our goal is still the same. We continue to seek the peaceful denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula," she said. The DPRK foreign minister also said that the DPRK reserved the right to take countermeasures, including shooting down U.S. bombers even if they are not in its air space. "Since the United States declared war on our country, we will have every right to take countermeasures, including the right to shoot down U.S. strategic bombers even when they are not inside the airspace border of our country," Ri said. (Xinhua)

Iran Opposes Disintegration of Countries in Middle East: Defense Minister

TEHRAN - Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami has voiced the Islamic Republic's opposition to any change in geographical borders in the Middle East and disintegration of regional countries. In a Tuesday meeting with Turkish ambassador to Tehran, Reza Hakan Tekin, the Iranian defense minister warned of the security consequences of a controversial referendum on the independence of the semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region from Iraq's central government. "The Islamic Republic of Iran opposes any move, which will lead to a change in geographical borders and partitioning of regional countries," Hatami said. He added that Iran's

principled policy was to respect the national sovereignty and territorial integrity of regional countries, stressing that the plebiscite in the Kurdistan region "was tantamount to playing into the hands of Daesh terrorists and their regional and international allies." The Iranian minister emphasized that the independence vote would create problems for regional nations, particularly the Kurdish people in Iraq. Iraq's semi-autonomous Kurdistan Region held an independence referendum on Monday in the face of strong objections from the central government in Baghdad and urgent calls from the international community to scrap the vote. (Presstv)

At UN Assembly, Turkmenistan Stresses Importance for Greater Global Cooperation

ASHGABAT - Speaking at the 72nd annual debate at the United Nations General Assembly, Turkmenistan highlighted its efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and called for greater cooperation to address the challenges before the globe. In her address, Aksamatova, the Chair of the Delegation of Turkmenistan, noted the importance of transport connectivity and cooperation for the achievement of

the global development goals and informed the Assembly of the global conference on sustainable transport held in the country last November. Also in her remarks, Ms. Ataeva noted the establishment of a training centre in the country to strengthen capacity in relation to the implementation of the SDGs. She also underscored the importance of energy security and in ensuring fair access to energy, including as part of the 2030 Agenda. (UN)