

France's Macron Presents His Receipt for Europe Amid Mounting Populism

PARIS - French President Emmanuel Macron on Tuesday rose the curtain on his vision for Europe where populism was building momentum, calling for closer ties to build joint defense force, common fiscal policy and coordinate efforts to tackle migration crisis and climate change.

"I'm here to speak about Europe. Some say again! Yes again," Macron said. "The Europe we know is too weak, too slow, too inefficient, but Europe alone can give us a capacity to act in the world in the face of the great contemporary challenges," he added. Speaking at the Sorbonne University in Paris, two days



after the far-rightist scored an unprecedented gain in Germany's election, the French head of state warned about the surge of nationalism advocates.

"Europe today is more fragile, exposed to nationalism, protectionism. They say they are legitimate because they exploit people's fear. But, I will let nothing, nothing to those who promise hatred, division and turning on nationalism," Macron told the crowd. In order to overcome this challenge, "the only path that assures our future is the rebuilding of a Europe that is sovereign, united and democratic," the French president noted. (Xinhua)

Belarusian President Expresses Regret at Brexit

MINSK - Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko on Tuesday expressed regret that the UK is leaving the European Union and urged more investment from Britain.

The Belarusian leader made the remarks during a meeting here with Alan Duncan, British Minister of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs.

"We would have a reliable good partner and friend in the European Union who could tell the truth about Belarus," Lukashenko said. Despite the UK's exit from the EU, Lukashenko encouraged the UK to in-

vest more actively in Belarus, which will create the most favorable and convenient conditions for British investors to do business in Belarus.

In his turn, Duncan said the UK considers Belarus as a very important partner. "We had 25 years of good relations between the UK and Belarus, and the next 25 years will be even better," he said. Duncan arrived in Minsk on Monday. The visit coincides with the 25th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. (Xinhua)

Putin Says Russia to Destroy 'Last Chemical Weapons'

MOSCOW - President Vladimir Putin on Wednesday announced that Russia would destroy its last chemical weapons, hailing the move as a "historic event" and accusing the United States of not following suit.

"Today the last chemical ammunition from Russia's chemical weapon stockpile will be destroyed," Putin said in televised remarks. "This is truly a historic event, taking into account the huge amount we inherited from Soviet times that was enough -

as experts believed - to destroy all living things many times over," he added.

"This is a huge step towards making the modern world more balanced and safe." The Russian president also used the speech to needle Washington, saying the United States was not carrying out its international duties in full. The US "unfortunately is not carrying out its obligations when it comes to the timeframe of destroying chemical weap-



ons - they pushed back the liquidation timeframe already three times," Putin was quoted as saying by Russian news agencies. Putin said Washington

Neighbor News

Xi's Proposal to Boost Global Security Governance

BEIJING - As the world is plagued by mounting global security challenges, both old and new, the new proposal by Chinese President Xi Jinping on international security has given a boost to global stability.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 86th Interpol General Assembly on Tuesday, Xi proposed better cooperation and innovation, upholding the rule of law and seeking mutual benefit to build universal security for mankind.

Security and stability are fundamental to peace and development across the globe, and the world is far from tranquil.

Global security is facing challenges such as widespread terrorism, cybercrime and organized

crime, which all threaten national security, social stability and economic development around the world.

In an increasingly interconnected world, security problems go beyond national boundaries. A security flaw in one country can easily become an Achilles' heel for regional and even global security. Security of a country cannot be ensured by an individual or single country; rather, joint efforts of different governments are needed to improve cooperation and combat crime.

As Xi put it, "Countries should adopt a concept of common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, and jointly respond to security challenges." (Xinhua)

Promotion of Tourism Industry to Contribute for Country's Economy: Mamnoon

ISLAMABAD - President Mamnoon Hussain has said the federal and provincial governments were taking effective measures for the development of tourist sites and promotion of tourism.

"These efforts will help in gearing up our tourism industry to become a major sector of national economy in the near future. By focusing on the international best practices of sustainable tourism, we can ensure long lasting socio-economic development which can in turn bring a positive change for the people of Pakistan," he said in a message on the occasion of World Tourism Day being celebrated across globe on September 27.

He said promotion of

tourist activities help strengthen the national economies and put countries on the road to progress and development.

"Tourism also helps in promotion of soft image of a country at international level and brings the people of different parts of the world closer to each other by fostering a better understanding for the foreign cultures and way of life," he added. The president noted that it was a matter of great pleasure to know that people around the world were celebrating World Tourism Day which served to remind that the beautiful planet should be protected, preserved and looked after in order to fully enjoy the bounties it offered. (Monitoring Desk)

World Bank Warns of Global Learning Crisis



WASHINGTON - World Bank on Tuesday warned that millions of young students in low and middle-income countries could face lost oppor-

tunity and lower wages in later life due to lack of good education.

"The children whom society is failing the most are the ones in greatest need

of a good education to succeed in life," said the Washington-based lender in its latest World Development Report which focuses on global education.

The report found that learning outcomes are always much worse for the disadvantaged groups, such as poor children, girls, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities. Furthermore, these groups are either not enrolled in schools or most likely to be out of

schools. The Bank named these severe shortfalls a learning crisis.

"This learning crisis is widening social gaps instead of narrowing them," said the report. "Young students who are already disadvantaged by poverty, conflict, gender or disability reach young adulthood without even the most basic life skills," it added.

Not all developing countries suffer from extreme learning gaps, however, as many fall far short of levels they aspire to, said the report. (Xinhua)

EU Border Controls Could be Extended in Crisis, Commission Says

BRUSSELS - Temporary border controls inside the European Union's free-travel zone could be extended for up to three years during a crisis, the European Commission proposed on Wednesday, giving it more leeway to stem migration.

The proposal by the EU executive comes as border controls in Germany, Austria, Denmark, and Norway expire, part of the European Union's response to a surge of refugees and migrants in November 2015 that tested EU rules on pass-

port-free travel.

Those countries must lift the frontier checks by November this year under a two-year-limit set by the bloc in the so-called Schengen area, which is named after a town in Luxembourg and aims to be a symbol of free movement in the bloc. While not referring to the four countries, the Commission's plan, if agreed by EU governments, would allow them to keep the controls in place for another year if they can justify them. (Reuters)

Merkel Welcomes 'A Lot of Material' from Macron for EU Reform Debate

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel on Wednesday welcomed French President Emmanuel Macron's speech on European Union reform, which contained "a lot of material" for necessary debate on the issue, her spokesman said.

Germany shares Macron's view that the EU needs reforms. The details of reforms must be discussed, added the spokesman, Steffen Seibert. "This discussion is necessary and sensible," Seibert told a regular government news conference in Berlin, adding that the leaders would have a chance to talk at an EU meeting in Tallinn on Thursday. (Reuters)

EU Police Agency Calls for Better Action against Cybercrime

THE HAGUE, Netherlands - The European Union's police agency called Wednesday for better awareness and tougher, targeted legislation to tackle cybercrime in the wake of devastating malware and ransomware attacks in recent months. Events such as the global "WannaCry" attack in May have "taken the threat from cybercrime to another level," Europol Executive Director Rob Wainwright told delegates at an international conference. Wainwright spoke as Europol released its 2017 Internet Organized Crime Threat Assessment highlighting trends in cybercrime and recommending ways of tackling them. "The growing threat of cybercrime requires dedicated legislation that enables law enforcement presence and action in an online environment," Europol said. (AP)

U.S. Secretary of State to Visit China

BEIJING - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson will visit China on Sept. 30 at the invitation of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Foreign Ministry spokesperson Lu Kang said Wednesday.

The two sides will exchange views on bilateral ties, U.S. President Donald Trump's state visit to China this year, and major international and regional issues, Lu said.

China and the United States will hold their first social and people-to-people dialogue on Sept. 28 in Washington D.C.



Premier Li Keqiang met with visiting U.S. Secretary of Commerce Wilbur Ross on Sept. 26 in Beijing. China-U.S. frequent high-level visits reflect normal and sound ties between the two countries, Lu said.

Since the Mar-a-Lago meeting between Chinese and U.S. heads of states in April, the leaders of the two countries, as well as personnel at all levels, are keeping close communication, Lu said. (Xinhua)

EU Rolls out New Plan to Resettle 50,000 Refugees in Two Years

BRUSSELS - The European Commission rolled out a new scheme on Wednesday to bring at least 50,000 refugees to Europe over the next two years, in a bid to curb illegal human smuggling in the Mediterranean. The move came on the back of Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker's State of the Union address, in which he pledged the European Union (EU) would "present a new set of proposals with an emphasis on returns, solidarity with Africa, and opening legal pathways." The new resettlement scheme, to be in place until October 2019, aims to "provide viable safe and legal alternatives

for those who risk their lives at the hands of criminal smuggling networks," the Commission said in a press release. The Commission underscored that increased focus should be put on resettling "vulnerable persons" from North Africa and the Horn of Africa, notably Libya, Egypt, Niger, Sudan, Chad, and Ethiopia. "We need to open real alternatives to taking perilous irregular journeys. Investing in more legal pathways, both for protection but also for study or work, is therefore essential," said Dimitris Avramopoulos, commissioner for migration, home affairs and citizenship. (Xinhua)

Top U.S. General Says DPRK has Not Changed Military Posture

WASHINGTON - The Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) has not changed its military posture despite heated exchange of rhetoric with the United States, a top American general said on Tuesday.

"While the political space is clearly very charged right now, we haven't seen a change in the posture of North Korean (DPRK) forces and we watch that very closely," Joseph Dunford, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told a Senate committee.

"What we haven't seen is military activity that would be reflective of the charged political environment," Dunford added.

Asked about his assessment of DPRK's ballistic missile program, the general said the country will "soon" have the capability to strike U.S. mainland with an intercontinental ballistic missile.

"Whether it's three months or six months or 18 months, it is soon, and we ought to conduct ourselves as though it is just a matter of time, and a matter of very short time, before North Korea (DPRK) has that capability," Dunford told lawmakers.

On Tuesday, at a joint press conference with visiting Spanish Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy, U.S. President Donald Trump called on nations to further isolate the DPRK in response to its nuclear and missile programs.

"North Korean (DPRK) nuclear weapons and missile development threaten the entire world with unthinkable loss of life. All nations must act now to ensure the regime's complete denuclearization," Trump said. (Xinhua)

Iran Missile Tests don't Breach International Accords: Russia

TEHRAN - A senior Russian official says Iran's ballistic missile tests do not violate United Nations Security Council resolutions or international agreements, contrary to the West's media hype about the Islamic Republic's missile program. "There is no ban that might prevent Iran from testing missiles," Mikhail Ulyanov, the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry's Non-Proliferation and Weapons Control Department, said on Tuesday.

He also noted that a "compromise" was made over Iran's missile activities under the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), which was signed between Tehran and the P5+ states, name-

ly the US, Russia, China, France, Britain plus Germany.

"The previous ban, contained in the UN Security Council resolutions, was canceled to be replaced by a call addressed to Iran to refrain from launching ballistic missiles - not any missiles, though, but only those capable of serving as WMD (weapon of mass destruction) delivery vehicles," Ulyanov said.

He was referring to UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that canceled earlier resolutions on Iran and effectively turned the JCPOA into international law.

Ulyanov further stressed that there was no basis for the suspicion that Iranian missiles are designed to carry a nuclear warhead or WMD. (Presstv)

Turkmenistan Says Condemns Terrorism in all its Forms

ASHGABAT - Turkmen government condemns terrorism in all its forms, Aksoltan Atayeva, permanent representative of Turkmenistan to the United Nations, said.

Atayeva made the remarks during general political discussions at the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York, the Turkmen Foreign Ministry said in a message Sept. 26.

"Turkmen government recognizes that the prevention of terrorism is one of the most important components of ensuring national, regional

and global security," the message said. "In this regard, Turkmenistan welcomes the establishment of the new UN Office of Counter-Terrorism."

According to the message, implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is one of the key areas of Turkmenistan's strategic cooperation with the UN. Turkmenistan also confirmed its readiness to seek new approaches and ways to overcome the challenges facing humanity, as well as firm commitment to the cooperation with the UN. (Trend)