

# International Community Stresses Peaceful Solution to Korean Nuclear Issue

BEIJING/MANILA - Following the adoption of a new UN Security Council resolution targeting Pyongyang's nuclear and missile programs, major players involved in the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue have renewed their call for a peaceful solution to the issue.

The renewed call for a solution to the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue by peaceful means was made mainly during bilateral interactions or on multilateral occasion. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi and the EU's High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Federica Mogherini exchanged views on the current situation in the Korean Peninsula, on the sidelines of a recent gathering of foreign ministers from the



Southeastern Asian nations and their partner countries in the Philippine capital city of Manila. The UN Security Council resolution regarding the Korean Peninsula should be implemented in a comprehensive and full way, Wang said. China's "double suspension" proposal, which requires the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) to suspend its missile and nuclear activities in exchange for the suspension of large-scale U.S.-South Korean military drills, can deal with the most urgent safety concerns of various parties and cut the vicious circle in the current situation, providing a breakthrough to resume peace talks, Wang said. (Xinhua)

## UN Chief Urges Venezuela Dialogue

CARACAS, Venezuela - The U.N. says Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is convinced the crisis in Venezuela can't be solved "through the imposition of unilateral measures" and is again urging the government and opposition to relaunch negotiations. U.N. spokesman Stephane Dujarric said Tuesday that Guterres "is concerned that recent developments could lead to further escalation of tensions and distance the country from a path conducive to a peaceful solution to its challenges." Dujarric said "at this critical time" the secretary-general is urging negotiations "for the benefit of the Venezuelan people." He said Guterres is also supporting international and regional efforts seeking to revive talks. The U.S. State Department is repeating its rejection of the new government-led assembly rewriting Venezuela's constitution, saying it's "an illegitimate product of a flawed process designed by a dictator." Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert issued a series of tweets on Venezuela Tuesday. (AP)

## France's Macron to Host 'Big 3' Euro Zone Leaders for Talks

PARIS - Emmanuel Macron will host other major European leaders this month for talks on migration, the economy and defense - part of a broader diplomatic offensive by the French president. His popularity waning at home, Macron will hold talks with Germany's Angela Merkel, Spain's Mariano Rajoy and Italy's Paolo Gentiloni on Aug 28, a French official said on Tuesday. Sources in the three other countries confirmed the meeting. Macron is also due to meet Dutch Prime Minister Mark Rutte on August 31. He will also visit Austria, Romania and Bulgaria from August 23-25, when he will press for better protection for French workers from what they see as unfair labor competition from the EU's poorer states. Since a landslide presidential election victory in May and a successful parliamentary campaign in June, Macron's popularity ratings have started to slide, impacted by tough debates in parliament over labor reform and a public ethics law, a standoff with the military and cuts to housing assistance. A YouGov poll published at the start of August showed 36 percent of voters held a favorable view of the 39-year-old, a fall of 7 points on the previous month and matching the downward trend seen in other surveys. (Reuters)



## Russia's Anti-Terror Body Warns of Continuous Threat



MOSCOW - The threat of terrorism persists in Russia in spite of measures taken by law enforcement and special services to reduce the vulnerability to people and facilities, a committee said Tuesday. "The threat associated with possible attacks of international terrorist organizations, especially the Islamic State (IS), as well as bandit groups operating in the North Caucasus region, remains," Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee (NAC) said in a statement quoting its head, Alexander Bortnikov. Federal executive bodies and anti-terrorist commissions need to consistently implement measures to protect socially important facilities and also finalize procedures for classifying mass gatherings of people, Bortnikov said. He added that, in spite of the established system for the prevention of terrorism in public transportation, it was necessary to develop additional measures to

ensure the security of air, rail and road infrastructure facilities. The NAC is a body that oversees anti-terror coordination in federal, regional and local executive bodies, and presents relevant proposals to Russian President Vladimir Putin. It groups heads of nearly all of Russia's law enforcement agencies, special services, key government departments, as well as of both chambers of the Russian parliament. The chairman of the NAC is also the head of the Federal Security Service. (Xinhua)

## German Lawmakers to Visit NATO Base in Turkey

BERLIN - A group of German lawmakers have been allowed to visit the NATO base in Konya, Turkey next month, German news channel ARD reported Tuesday. The ARD report said Federal Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel had informed the Defense Committee of the Federal Parliament in a letter about the travel authorization. NATO also announced that Germany and Turkey had reached agreement on the date of the visit on Sept. 8 after mediation by NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. The delegation, including seven delegates from all factions, is to be headed by the Deputy Secretary General of NATO, Rose Gottemoeller. The visit will be officially conducted by the NATO, but not the German Federal Parliament. NATO supports the fight against the terrorist organization the Islamic State (IS) with reconnaissance aircraft from the base in Konya. In mid-July, Turkey indefinitely postponed an already approved visit of German parliamentarians to the German soldiers in Konya, which further strained the tension of the bilateral relations. (Xinhua)

## EU Nations Move to Resume Returning Migrants to Greece

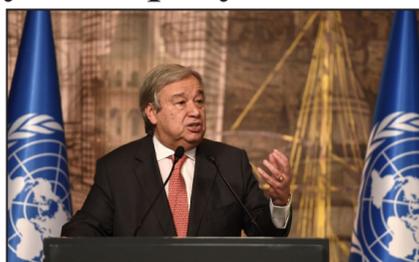
BRUSSELS - European Union countries have begun the process of sending migrants who arrived over the last five months via Greece back there to have their asylum applications assessed, resuming a practice that was suspended as Greece struggled to cope with a massive refugee influx. EU rules oblige migrants to apply for asylum in the country they first entered. But the requirement was put on hold as hundreds of thousands of people, many of them Syrian refugees, reached Greece on boats from Turkey in 2015. The EU's executive arm recommended in December that member countries gradually resume sending unauthorized migrants who arrived after March 15 back to Greece, which often is the first point of entry to the 28-nation EU. (AP)

## Merkel Rival Wants to Stay SPD Leader if Loses Election

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel's rival Martin Schulz, has said he wants to stay on as leader of the Social Democrats (SPD) even if his party loses in a federal election next month. His comments, which appeared to show Schulz contemplating defeat in the Sept. 24 vote, raised eyebrows even though polls put the centre-left party trailing Merkel's conservatives by 12-18 points. The SPD is currently junior partner in Merkel's right-left coalition. "I will of course seek re-election at the next party conference," Schulz, a former president of the European Parliament said at an event hosted by the RND group of regional newspapers when asked what he would do in the event of defeat. (Reuters)

## UN Chief "Regrets" Prosecutor Carla Del Ponte's Decision to Leave Syria Inquiry Panel

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres noted "with regret" on Monday investigator Carla Del Ponte's announced intention to resign from the Syria Commission of Inquiry, but added that he supports the panel's continued effort in seeking accountability for crimes against civilians in Syria's seven-year civil war. Stephane Dujarric, chief UN spokesman, said, "The Secretary-General notes with regret Carla del Ponte's decision to resign from the Commission. He is grateful for her service and her contribution to the important work of the Commission as a tireless advocate for the cause of accountability." "As the international community continues to



search for a political solution to the Syrian crisis, the Secretary-General reiterates the importance of accountability for crimes against civilians during the conflict," Dujarric said. (Xinhua)

## U.S. Sustains Military Aid to PKK/PYD Region in Syria: Media

ANKARA - More than 100 trucks carrying U.S. supplies crossed into Syrian territory controlled by the Kurdistan Worker's Party (PKK) and Democratic Union Party (PYD) on Monday night, Turkey's state-run Anadolu Agency reported on Tuesday. The supplies, consisting of 112 fuel tankers, covered trucks and low-loaders carrying military Humvees, were observed by an Anadolu Agency correspondent as it passed through Syria's Hasakah province, according to the report. Last Tuesday, Anadolu Agency reported

that the U.S. had dispatched 100 new trucks consisting of heavy weapons to the Kurdish region in Syria on July 30, which was denied by U.S. embassy in Ankara later. The U.S. has also stressed that Washington continues to provide full transparency to the Turkish government as to what weapons are being delivered to the Kurdish militia in Syria. A series of row has risen up between Turkey and its NATO ally the U.S. on the legalization of Syria's Kurdish military groups, mainly PYD and its force branch People's Protection Units (YPG). (Xinhua)

## Al-Qaida Leader Claims German Sept. 11 Suspect has Died

BERLIN - A German man believed to have provided logistical support to the Hamburg-based Sept. 11 hijackers has died, according to a newly-released audio message from the leader of al-Qaida. The announcement by Ayman al-Zawahiri came in an Aug. 2 audio message posted online in which he says a man he identifies as Zuhair al-Maghribi who worked for As-Sahab, the terrorist network's media arm, is a "martyr." He says al-Maghribi is one of several who "sacrificed their lives" but doesn't provide details on when or how they died. Al-Maghribi is a known alias of Said Bahaji, who authorities have said worked for As-Sahab. He's been wanted on an international arrest warrant issued by Germany shortly after the 2001 terrorist attacks on New York and Washington.

Germany-born Bahaji, who is of Moroccan descent, is believed to have helped suicide hijackers Mohamad Atta, Marwan al-Shehhi and Ziad Jarrah when they were in Hamburg, and to have fled shortly before the Sept. 11 attacks. In an operation in 2009, the Pakistani military battled their way into a Taliban stronghold along the Afghan border and found Bahaji's German passport, among others. It included a tourist visa for Pakistan and a stamp indicating he had arrived in the southern city of Karachi on Sept. 4, 2001. The authenticity of the al-Zawahiri recording could not be independently confirmed but it resembled previous messages released by the al-Qaida leader. (AP)

## Neighbor News

### Xi Extends Congratulations on 50th Anniversary of ASEAN's Founding

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping on Tuesday sent a congratulatory message to Rodrigo Duterte, president of the Philippines which is the rotating chair of the Association of Southeastern Asian Nations (ASEAN), on the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN. "On this occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of ASEAN, I would like to, on behalf of the Chinese government and the Chinese people and in my own name, express warm congratulations to you, and through you, to the governments and peoples of the member states of ASEAN," Xi said in the message. Since its establishment half a century ago, ASEAN has kept developing and enlarging itself, building itself into a community. It has

played an important role in maintaining regional peace and stability, and has become a representative force for multipolarity development of the world, Xi said. China wishes ASEAN to achieve new greater development in its construction as a community, make greater contribution to promoting regional peace, stability and prosperity, and bring more benefits to the peoples of all ASEAN member states, according to the Chinese president. Since the relationship of dialogue was established between them in 1991, China and ASEAN have adhered to the theme of cooperation and development, with mutual political trust keeping strengthening, and pragmatic cooperation yielding fruitful results, Xi said. (Xinhua)

### PM Asks Int'l Community to Play its Role to End Human Rights Violations in IoK

ISLAMABAD - Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Tuesday said the international community should play its due role in asking India to immediately end human rights violations in Indian occupied Kashmir (IoK). He reiterated Pakistan's resolve to extend moral, political and diplomatic support to the just struggle of people of IoK for their right of self-determination. The prime minister said this while talking to President Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJ&K) Sardar Masood Khan, who called on him here at the PM Office. Matters of political sig-

nificance and ongoing development initiatives in AJ&K were discussed during the meeting. The president apprised the prime minister of his recent foreign visits wherein he highlighted the grave human rights violations by Indian security forces in IoK. He briefed the prime minister about his interaction with European Parliamentarians where he stressed upon them that they should help the people of Kashmir in finding a peaceful solution of the Kashmir issue and put an end to their suffering inflicted on them every day by the Indian occupation forces. (APP)

### Iran's President Presents Cabinet to Parliament for Vote of Confidence

TEHRAN - Iran's President Hassan Rouhani has submitted the list of his nominees for ministerial posts to the Parliament (Majlis). The list, which was presented to the legislature on Tuesday, includes the proposed picks to head 17 out of 18 ministries. The nominee for the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology is yet to be presented to the Iranian parliament. Separately on Tuesday, President Rouhani has changed eight of his ministers from the former cabinet. Some of the ministers who have retained their portfolios in the list are Mohammad Javad Zarif as foreign minister, Bijan Namdar-Zangeneh as minister of petroleum, Mahmoud Alavi as intelligence minister, Hassan Ghazizadeh Hashemi as minister of health, and Abdul-Reza Rahmani Fazli as interior minister. Some of the new picks include Brigadier General Amir Hatami to head the Defense Ministry and Seyyed Alireza Avaie to head the Ministry of Justice. It was not clear when the nominee for the Ministry of Science would be named. In May, Rouhani won re-election in a landslide after securing 57 percent of the votes (Presstv)

### Azerbaijan, Turkmenistan Sign Documents

ASHGABAT - A ceremony of signing Azerbaijan-Turkmenistan documents has been held with participation of President of the Republic of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev and President of Turkmenistan Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov signed the Declaration on Strategic Partnership between Azerbaijan and Turkmenistan. The protocol on amendments and additions to the agreement on organizing cargo transportation, exploitation, registration, and use of freight wagons and containers in the international direct rail-ferry service through the ports of Baku (Azerbaijan) and Türkmenbaşy (Turkmenistan) was signed by Azerbaijan Railways CSJ/C Chairman Javid Gurbanov and Turkmenistan's Railway Minister Deryaguly Byashimov. (Agencies)