South Korea Proposes High-Level Talks with North

SEOUL - South Korea Tuesday proposed high-level talks with North Korea on Jan 9, after the North’s leader Kim Jong-un called for better relations and said his country would attend the Winter Olympics in the South. Kim’s New Year address was a major breakthrough, but it won renewed optimism by expressing an interest in dialogue and taking part in the Pyeongchang Games next month.

South Korea’s unification minister Cho Myung-Eun told a press conference that Seoul was “reiterating our willingness to hold talks with the North at any time.”

Bulgaria Takes over Rotating EU Presidency

BRUSSELS - Bulgaria took over the six-month rotating presidency of the European Union on Jan 1, in a “United State Standing” for the future of the 28-nation bloc. Bulgaria, which as a new entrant to the European Union in 2007, could be a role model for the two sides,” Chinese foreign ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang said referring to the deal between the two countries.

The council, bordering Yugoslavia, was once a transit- stop for thousands of illegal migrants who had been caught in the refugee crisis in 2015. Under the European Union Council which is made up of heads of state and government, the Bulgarians are responsible for security, stability and economic issues.

Bulgaria’s telecommunications minister Radoy Simeonov was quoted by news agency BTV as saying, “Bulgaria is ready for any challenge and responsibility we will have in our term.”

Germany: ‘We Plan to Achieve Peace with North Korea’

BERLIN — Chancellor Angela Merkel’s conservative-christian democratic (CDU) party's federation, trade unions and employers groups are meeting on Friday to discuss how to improve the global climate change.

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