

# EU Foreign Policy Chief, Turkish President in Gulf to Defuse Qatar Crisis

BEIJING - The European Union (EU) foreign policy chief and Turkish president have been travelling around the Gulf countries as part of the most recent worldwide efforts to heal the diplomatic rift between Qatar and the Saudi-led quartet. Federica Mogherini pledged EU support and assistance for efforts to resolve the Gulf crisis that erupted last month, when meeting with Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sabah Khaled Al Sabah on Sunday. The current situation should be resolved through dialogue and without delay, she said in a statement released by the European Ex-



ternal Action Service, urging all parties to enter into negotiations to hammer out clear principles and a roadmap for a swift resolution. The Saudi-led quartet, which also includes the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain and Egypt, cut diplomatic ties with Qatar on June 5 and imposed a blockade on the tiny rich Gulf nation. Accusing Doha of supporting terrorism and interfering in their internal affairs, the countries initially put forward a list of 13 demands to Qatar, demanding it close the Al-Jazeera channels, downgrading diplomatic ties with Iran and stopping financing extremist groups. (Xinhua)

## 25 Killed, 53 Injured in Lahore Car Bombing

LAHORE - A suspected suicide killed at least 25 people and injured 53 others in Lahore, the capital of Pakistan's Punjab province, on Monday afternoon. The blast took place near the Arfa Karim IT Tower on Lahore's Ferozpur Road, said Lahore deputy commissioner on behalf of the Punjab government. The Pakistani media quoted eyewitnesses as saying it was a car bombing but it remained unknown if it was a suicide

attack or not. Punjab government spokesperson Malik Mohammad Ahmed said the car bomb struck an old vegetable market in the neighbourhood of Kot Lakhpat on Lahore's outskirts. Police officer Kashif Aslam said the bombing targeted policemen who were providing security for demolition work at an old building nearby. Most of the casualties were policemen. Earlier, SP Imran Awan confirmed more than nine bodies were shifted



to the hospital. At least three of the deceased people are policemen, he added. The injured include at least six policemen. Rescue 1122 teams have

shifted them to nearby hospitals where emergency has been imposed. Two vehicles, including one motorcycle, have reportedly been damaged in the incident. (Pajhwok)

## Saudi Crown Prince in Charge as King Heads on Holiday

RIYADH - Saudi Arabia's King Salman left for holiday abroad on Monday and appointed his son, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, to run the affairs of the world's top oil exporter in his absence, a royal decree said. It is standard practice for Gulf leaders to hand over control to their deputy during travel abroad, but it is the first time Mohammed bin Salman, 32, has officially taken on the role since his sudden ascent to crown prince last month. His promotion, replacing his 57-year-old cousin Prince Mohammed bin Nayef, ended two years of speculation about behind-the-scenes rivalry near the pinnacle of royal power. The agency did not say where the king was traveling or how long he would be absent. But an Arab diplomat said he was expected to spend his holiday in Morocco. The king's decree posted on Saudi state news agency SPA said the crown prince would be in charge of "managing state affairs and taking care of the interests of the people during the period of our absence from the Kingdom." (Reuters)

## Trump Envoy Heads to Israel for Holy Site Crisis Talks

JERUSALEM - A top aide to US President Donald Trump was due in Israel Monday in a bid to ease tensions over new security measures at a highly sensitive Jerusalem holy site after a weekend of deadly violence. Jason Greenblatt's visit comes after more than a week of tensions over the Haram al-Sharif mosque compound, known to Jews as the Temple Mount and central to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Israel installed metal detectors at entrances to the site, which includes

Al-Aqsa mosque and the Dome of the Rock, following an attack on July 14 that killed two policemen. Palestinians view the move as Israel asserting further control over the site. They have refused to enter the compound in protest and have prayed in the streets outside. Israeli authorities say the metal detectors are needed because the July 14 attackers smuggled guns into the site and emerged from it to shoot the officers. Clashes have broken out during protests over the measures, leaving five Palestinians dead. (AFP)

## Arab FMs to Hold Emergency Meeting over Israeli-Palestinian Row in E. Jerusalem

CAIRO - Arab foreign ministers will hold an emergency meeting on Wednesday to discuss Israeli aggression over the Al-Aqsa Mosque in East Jerusalem, the Arab League (AL) announced on Sunday. The meeting, to be held at AL headquarters in Cairo, is requested by Jordan and supported by several Arab states to address "the latest Israeli aggressions and measures in Jerusalem and at the Al-Aqsa Mosque shrine," said AL spokesman Mahmoud Afifi.

Tensions between Israel and Palestinians have been rising since July 14 when Israel installed checkpoints and metal detectors at the entrances of the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound after three Israeli Arab gunmen shot dead two Israeli policemen near the site. The three were later killed by the Israeli police. Since then, daily clashes have been erupting between Israeli security forces and Palestinian protesters at the gates of the mosque compound and elsewhere in West



Bank. In clashes during a massive protest on Friday, Israeli security forces killed three Palestinians and injured hundreds of others. The AL has repeatedly condemned the Israeli practices at Al-Aqsa Mosque as a blatant breach of the right of worship and violation of relevant international laws and UN resolutions. (Xinhua)

## BRICS Trade Union Forum Opens in Beijing

BEIJING - The sixth BRICS Trade Union Forum opened in Beijing Monday to discuss the trade union role in sustainable development. It is China's first time to host the BRICS Trade Union Forum since it was established in 2012. The two-day meeting will focus on issues including challenges and opportunities facing the labor world, helping achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development and strengthening exchanges and cooperation among the group. The forum will release a declaration, a joint statement toward the BRICS Labor and Employment Ministerial Meeting and other documents. The forum is one of the supporting activities of the Ninth BRICS Summit to be held in the eastern Chinese port city of Xiamen in September. Their total share in the global economy has risen from 12 percent to 23 percent in the past decade, while contributing more than half of global growth. (Xinhua)

## Erdogan, Saudi King Discuss Qatari Crisis Amid Renewed Mediation Efforts

RIYADH - As part of Turkey's renewed mediation efforts, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan met with Saudi Arabian King Salman bin Abdulaziz on Sunday to discuss the diplomatic crisis between Qatar and the Saudi-led quartet. The two leaders addressed bilateral ties and regional developments, in addition to the efforts being exerted to fight terrorism, the state-run Saudi Press Agency reported. Erdogan's Gulf tour, which will also take him to Qatar and Kuwait, came amid Turkey's new diplomatic offensive aimed at brokering an end to the Gulf standoff. (Xinhua)

## UN 'Not Giving Up' on Cyprus after Talks Collapse

NICOSIA - The United Nations is "not giving up" on efforts to seal a Cyprus reunification deal despite the failure of an international summit held in Switzerland earlier this month, UN envoy Espen Barth Eide said on Monday. "We have a complicated situation... We were not able to stitch it together to a final deal. That was a blow I think to everybody involved, and the question is what we can do now," Eide told reporters in Nicosia. The Norwegian diplomat has returned to the island for his first talks with its rival



Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders of the divided eastern Mediterranean island since UN-mediated negotiations collapsed on July 7 in the Swiss resort of Crans-Montana. "I am here partly to share some of my impressions

with the leaders... to hear where they think we stand, where the process is and frankly what they would like us to do," he said after meeting President Nicos Anastasiades, the Greek Cypriot leader. (AFP)

## German President Warns against Turning Back on U.S.

BERLIN - German president Frank-Walter Steinmeier has made a plea for maintaining close ties between Berlin and Washington despite recent irritation caused by the Trump administration. Appearing on television channel ZDF for a "Summer Interview" on Sunday night, Steinmeier emphasized the historical debt his country owed to the United States. "We certainly have no reason to assume a posture of moral superiority," the president warned. He said German democracy would not exist if it were not for the United

States and the country's booming post-war economy could not have flourished if it were not for aid provided by Washington under the Marshall plan. "I would therefore advise not to throw everything over board, even if I admit that I am irritated by many things," he said. According to Steinmeier, just how much relations between Berlin and Washington had suffered recently was evidenced by the fact that "in the history of German-U.S. relations, transatlantic relations have never faced so much uncertainty." (Xinhua)

## Kremlin Warns against 'Harmful' New US Sanctions on Russia

MOSCOW - The Kremlin on Monday warned that new US sanctions on Russia would hit the interests of both sides as Congress gears up to approved fresh punitive measures. "We consider such a continuation of the rhetoric of sanctions counter-productive and harmful to the interests of both countries," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said. In mid-June, the US Senate overwhelmingly passed tough sanctions, but the text stalled in the House of Representatives, until agreement was reached on Saturday. The House is now set to vote Tuesday on a bill that targets Russia -- for its alleged meddling in the 2016 presidential election and its annexation of Crimea from Ukraine in 2014 -- as well as Iran and North Korea, for its ballistic missile tests. Initially, US President Donald Trump resisted the legislation, which would prevent him from unilaterally easing penalties against Moscow in the future -- effectively placing him under Congress's watch. But he seems to be left with little option but to sign off on the move as a political firestorm swirls over potential collusion between his campaign and Russia. Peskov said the Kremlin is still waiting and watching to see if Trump will approve the measures, after White House communications director Anthony Scaramucci said the US leader was weighing his decision. (AFP)

## Nieghbor News

### Xi Sees Positive Changes in China's Economy

BEIJING - President Xi Jinping has spoken of positive changes and stronger momentum in China's economy, while calling for measures to implement supply-side structural reform and defuse major risks. Xi, also general secretary of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee, made the remarks at a symposium Friday attended by representatives of non-Communist parties and the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce, as well as non-party personages. Commenting on the country's economic development in the first half of the year, Xi said the economy maintained steady growth with a positive outlook, deepened structural adjustment, and better-than-expected performance in major indicators. The macro-economy is more stable, and people's lives are getting better, the president said. He noted positive changes are taking place in the economy, saying the fundamentals of economic and social development are sound. There are substantial changes in the relations between economic supply and demand, while companies' expectations and market confidence are improving gradually, Xi said. The momentum of economic development is getting stronger in China, which plays a significant role in driving the global economic recovery, according to the president. (Xinhua)

### Pakistan, US Enjoy Exceptional Relationship for Past 70 Years: Aizaz Chaudhary

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan and United States have been enjoying an exceptional relationship for the last seven decades, Ambassador Aizaz Ahmad Chaudhry while addressing a gathering over dinner in Chicago on Monday. According to a press release issued here, he said seven decades of our excellent relations do not only comprise of government to government relations but also robust people to people ties. He also appreciated the efforts of the Pakistani-American community for welfare of their country in origin along with the role of Pakistani-American community of Midwest in cementing Pak-US relations. Aizaz Chaudhry urged the Pakistani-American community to focus on assimilating

### US on its Own in Seeking to Undermine Iran Nuclear Deal: Qassemi

TEHRAN - Iran says the United States is in a minority of one in its destructive ambitions against the 2015 nuclear deal between the Islamic Republic and the P5+1 group, which includes the US itself. Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qassemi made the remarks during a Monday press conference, saying, "The countries of the P5+1 group are not accompanying the US [in its] treacherous measures [against the nuclear deal]." Iran and the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council - the United States, Britain, France, China and Russia - plus Germany signed the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on July 14, 2015 and started implementing it on January

### Uzbek President Discusses Co-Op with Central Asia Neighbors

TASHKENT - President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev held phone talks with his counterparts from Kazakhstan, Tajikistan, and Kyrgyzstan, the presidential press-services of these countries said July 24. Kazakh President Nursultan Nazarbayev, Tajik President Emomali Rahmon and Kyrgyz President Almazbek

Atambayev during the telephone conversations congratulated Shavkat Mirziyoyev on the occasion of his 60th birthday. The presidents also discussed bilateral cooperation and expressed interest for development and enhancement of mutually beneficial partnership. It was noted that it will favor the interests of the nations. (Trend)