

Russia Warns US after Downing of Syrian Warplane

MOSCOW — Warplanes from the U.S.-led coalition operating over Syrian government-controlled areas west of the Euphrates River will be tracked as potential targets, Russia's Defense Ministry said Monday, a day after the U.S. military shot down a Syrian air force jet.

Moscow condemned the downing of the Syrian jet after it dropped bombs near the U.S.-backed Syrian Democratic Forces that are fighting the Islamic State group in Syria's increasingly complicated civil war. The downing of the warplane — the first time in the conflict that the U.S. has shot down a Syrian jet — came as Iran fired several ballistic missiles at IS positions in



eastern Syria in retaliation for two attacks by the extremists in Tehran earlier this month that killed 17 people. Areas of northern Syria west of the Euphrates were controlled by IS before Syrian government forces captured most of them in recent months. The Russians appear to want to avoid further U.S. targeting of Syrian warplanes or ground troops that have come under U.S. attack in eastern Syria recently. Moscow also called on the U.S. military to provide a full accounting of why it decided to shoot down the Syrian Su-22. Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad, has been providing an air cover to the government's offensive since 2015. (AP)

EU Reiterates Support for Paris Agreement

BRUSSELS - The European Union (EU) reaffirmed Monday its support for Paris agreement on climate change when its Foreign Affairs Council convened in Luxembourg. The Council said in a statement that the Paris Agreement is fit for purpose and cannot be renegotiated. U.S. President Donald Trump said on June 1 that he has decided to pull the United States out of the Paris Agreement, a landmark global pact to fight climate change. The Council said it deeply regretted the unilateral

decision by the United States administration to withdraw from the Paris Agreement, while it welcomed the statements of commitment to the Agreement from other countries. The Council said the EU will lead in the global fight against climate change through its climate policies and through continued support to those who are particularly vulnerable. Besides, the EU is strengthening its existing global partnerships and will continue to seek new alliances, from the world's largest econo-



mies to the most vulnerable island states, according to the statement. The Paris Agreement, agreed on by almost every country in the world in 2015, aims to tackle climate change by

cutting greenhouse gas emissions and sets a global target of keeping the rise in the average temperature no higher than 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. (Xinhua)

Xi Says BRICS Cooperation will Usher in New "Golden Decade"

BEIJING - Chinese President Xi Jinping said Monday that BRICS cooperation would be more productive and usher in a new "golden decade." Xi made the remarks when meeting with the heads of delegations from Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa, who are in Beijing to attend the BRICS foreign ministers' meeting. Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi chaired the meeting, which also included Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, Brazilian

Foreign Minister Aloysius Nunes, South African Minister of International Relations and Cooperation Maite Nkoana-Mashabane and India's Minister of State for External Affairs Vijay Kumar Singh. Xi extended congratulations on the success of the meeting and thanked other BRICS members for their support. He said that BRICS countries faced the common task of safeguarding domestic stability and development, creating a ...*(More on P4)...(21)*

Russian FM Urges Trump to Discard "Cold War" Policy on Cuba

MOSCOW - The U.S. administration's new policy toward Cuba indicates a return to the Cold War, and Washington needs to listen to the international community's voice on this issue, Russia's Foreign Ministry said Sunday. "The new policy on Cuba announced by U.S. President Donald Trump brings us back to the already forgotten rhetoric in the style of the 'Cold War'. Such an approach has characterized the U.S. attitude to Cuba for decades," the ministry said in a statement. Trump announced on Friday new

restrictions on Americans' travel to Cuba and U.S. business with the Cuban military, a step to tighten the U.S. policy toward the neighboring country. The move is seen as an attempt to roll back parts of Obama's policy of normalizing U.S.-Cuba diplomatic ties, which was introduced in December 2014. Noting that the past five decades has shown the futility of "the arrogant style of doing business with Cuba", the ministry warned the U.S. government that the anti-Cuban ...*(More on P4)...(22)*

Iran Says Missile Attack on IS in Syria Aimed at Detering Terrorist Attacks

TEHRAN - Iran on Monday defended the recent missile strike on Islamic State's (IS) militants in Syria's eastern region, calling it a deterrent measure against terrorism. "Iran's missile capability protects its citizens in lawful self-defense & advances common global fight to eradicate IS and extremist terror," Iran's Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted on Monday. On Sunday, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said in a statement that it fired missiles at the

"terrorists" command centers and logistic depots in Deir ez-Zor to punish the "Takfiri terrorists" for their recent twin attacks in Iran's capital Tehran. Iran's Foreign Ministry Spokesman Bahram Qasemi on Monday also defended the missile strike, while vowing that the Islamic republic will protect its citizens from terrorism. Iran will make all efforts to ensure its stability and security, and fight terrorism, Qasemi was quoted by the semi-official ISNA news agency as saying. The Sunday missile at-



tack against the IS positions in Syria was "just a small slap and a warning sign against terrorism," he said. General Ramezan Sharif, head of the IRGC Public

Relations Department, on Monday warned terrorists about "more serious revenge" if they attempt to stage more terror attacks against the Islamic ...*(More on P4)...(23)*

Italy Says G-20 a Chance to Pressure Trump on Climate Pact

ROME — Italy's premier says that world leaders will keep up the pressure on President Donald Trump to re-think his opposition to the Paris climate pact. Paolo Gentiloni said Monday the Group of 20 meeting of major countries' leaders, on July 7-8 in Hamburg, Germany, would present the opportunity to lobby the U.S. administration. Gentiloni announced last month at the Group of Seven he hosted in Sicily that Trump wasn't on board with the other participants in supporting the climate pact. The premier told reporters at a sustainable energy event in Italy that "on the occasion of the next ...*(More on P4)...(24)*

From David to Michel, a Guide to Top People in Brexit Talks

BRUSSELS — The Brexit talks to lead Britain out of the European Union kicked off on Monday and the chief negotiators are already on a first-name basis. Here's a look at the people who are likely to dominate these talks over much of the next two years. David Davis, United Kingdom Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union: The title is a mouthful and the task is even more challenging for Davis, a long-serving lawmaker and staunch Euroskeptic who served under Conservative Prime Minister John Major in bruising 1990s dealings with the EU. The longtime advocate of Britain quitting the EU was a natural choice to lead the British government's new department overseeing the Brexit talks. A former special forces reservist, Davis is expected to be a tough negotiator ...*(More on P4)...(26)*

France's Macron to Reshuffle Govt after Huge Parliament Win

PARIS — French President Emmanuel Macron is poised to rearrange his Cabinet after his new centrist party engineered a landslide in the country's parliamentary election, enabling the government to quickly start passing its first big laws. Prime Minister Edouard Philippe will resign "in the coming hours" and a new government will be named in the next few days, government spokesman Christophe Castaner said Monday on RTL radio. It's a largely symbolic move required after a legislative election. Since Macron's new party, Republic on the Move, won



an absolute majority in the 577-seat National Assembly, Castaner said the government reshuffling would be "technical and not far-reaching." He refused to say whether ministers who have come under corruption suspicions would keep their jobs. Many victorious parlia-

ment members have not held office before. They started arriving Monday at the National Assembly to learn their way around before the first parliament session next week. After Sunday's vote, the number of female lawmakers is the highest ever at ...*(More on P4)...(25)*

Merkel Seeks "Good Agreement" With UK on Brexit

BRUSSELS — German Chancellor Angela Merkel says she hopes for a "good agreement" after Brexit talks in which 27 EU countries will listen carefully to what Britain wants but also defend their own interests. Britain on Monday finally opened negotiations with other European Union nations about leaving the bloc. Merkel said Monday: "I think it is premature to speculate on the first day of the negotiations how they will end." She added: "I hope that we will reach a good agreement. That will be in our mu-

tual interest, but we 27 will formulate our interests very clearly and hopefully together." Merkel spoke after meeting with Romanian President Klaus Iohannis, who also stressed the 27 EU countries' unity. He noted the EU wants to discuss divorce terms before moving on to the shape of its future relations with Britain. He said he views the talks with "informed optimism." A top German business lobby is urging negotiators for Britain and the European Union to quickly ...*(More on P4)...(27)*

Algeria, Iran Call Gulf Countries to Resolve Disputes without Resorting to Foreign Intervention

ALGIERS - Algeria and Iran on Sunday called Gulf countries to resolve their disputes without resorting to foreign intervention and within respect of states' sovereignty and non-interference in their internal affairs. Upon the talks he held in Algiers with visiting Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif, Algerian FM Abdelkader Messahel told reporters that "he assessed with his guest bilateral cooperation in addition to the current situation prevailing in the Arab and Islamic regions, including the emerging crisis between some Gulf countries." Meshael further noted "when it comes to conflicts and disputes, Algeria's position is clear, as it calls for dialogue and respect of nations' sovereignty, and opposes any foreign interference in the internal affairs of states."

He added that "Even when it comes to the situation in Syria, Libya or Iraq, we have always stressed that the solution should be reached internally among the warrant parties themselves, without any political interference or pressure from outside." For his part, Zarif said that "We have discussed several issues, as we both call for more international cooperation in the fight against terrorism and respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of nations, and non-interference in their internal affairs." Zarif's visit comes at a time when the Gulf region is witnessing diplomatic row. (Xinhua)

Nieghbor News

China Calls for Stronger Asia-Europe Digital Connectivity

BEIJING - Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang Monday called for closer Asia-Europe cooperation in boosting digital connectivity and information flows. Wang made the remarks while addressing the opening of a forum on Asia-Europe digital connectivity, in Qingdao, a coastal city in eastern China. Wang said the forum is part of an important consensus reached at last year's Asia-Europe Meeting (ASEM) summit. He said it is of great significance in boosting Asia-Europe digital economic development and tapping the potential for innovative growth.

He said China would make joint efforts with ASEM members to help build information infrastructure, enable countries to develop digital

economies, and bridge the digital divide. Wang proposed enhancing cooperation in customs, logistics, electronic payments and electronic certification, paperless trading and cross-border e-commerce, and the integrated development of digital economy and traditional industries. "China will expand opening-up in areas such as telecommunication and the Internet in an active and prudent manner, and deepen digital industry cooperation with other countries," he said. "China is committed to improving transparency and security of digital economic activities, to maintain fair and just market order and better protect legitimate interests of enterprises and users." (Xinhua)

Pakistan Interested in Boosting Trade with Uzbekistan

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Ambassador-designate to Uzbekistan Dr Irfan Yousaf Shams urged traders to explore business opportunities in Central Asian countries, and Uzbekistan in particular, Associated Press of Pakistan news agency reported. He made such a statement addressing traders at the Rawalpindi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (RCCI) in Paki-

stan June 18. Irfan Yousaf Shams said Pakistan and Uzbekistan were enjoying cordial and friendly relations, adding that the governments of both the countries agreed to enhance bilateral trade volume to \$300 million during next five years. Meanwhile RCCI President Raja Amer Iqbal said bilateral trade between Pakistan and Uzbekistan was relatively low - at \$26 million. (Trend)

Iran among Major Missile Powers in World: Senior Military Official

TEHRAN - Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri has hailed the Islamic Republic's great missile capabilities, saying Iran is currently among the major missile powers in the world. "In many areas, including underground, marine, air, space and intelligence and... technologies, we are competing with the arrogant system," Baqeri said on Monday after Iran's ballistic missile attack against Daesh targets in eastern Syria. Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC)

fired six medium-range ground-to-ground ballistic missiles into Daesh bases in Syria's Dayr al-Zawr on Sunday in retaliation for twin terrorist attacks in the Iranian capital Tehran, which killed 17 people and injured over 50 others. On June 7, gunmen mounted almost simultaneous assaults on Iran's Parliament and the Mausoleum of the late Founder of the Islamic Republic Imam Khomeini. The Daesh Takfiri terrorist group claimed responsibility for the assaults. Baqeri further pointed to the US military presence in the Middle East,

U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan Warns its Citizens of Risk of Terrorist Attack

DUSHANBEH - The U.S. Embassy in Tajikistan has warned its citizens of a possible terrorist attack on the territory of the country. Here is the message for U.S. citizens released on Facebook: "Although there have been no recent attacks by organized terrorist groups in Tajikistan, the threat remains, and the danger of such an attack may have increased over the past 6-12 months. A range of terrorist organizations might seek to con-

duct attacks in the territory of Tajikistan, including against U.S. interests and the U.S. Embassy. With this in mind, the Embassy would recommend that U.S. citizens: - Exercise caution around the Afghan border and remain in populated areas after nightfall. - Avoid large public gatherings and public transportation when possible. - Be aware of your surroundings and remain alert for unusual activity." (AKI)

Tajikistan, Uzbekistan Sign Deals Totaling \$2.5 Mln at Sughd 2017 Exhibition

TASHKENT - Exhibition-Tajik and Uzbek businessmen signed 73 various documents for about \$2.5 million as a result of the Sughd 2017 exhibition, which was held in Khujand. A total of 100 deals have been signed at the exhibition, Deputy Head of Sughd region Anvar Yakubi told reporters at

the press conference after the exhibition. According to him, Tajiks signed also agreements with the Russian side for about \$100 million. All these deals will be implemented in the nearest future, Yakubi noted. He said the national exhibition of Tajikistan is expected to be organized in Tashkent this September. (AKI)