

Children's Suffering across World Unacceptable: UN

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres on Monday deplored the fact that the world is letting children down by allowing them to go through hardships and suffering. "I am sorry to say that, try as we might, we adults are letting you down," he told a gathering of children at UN headquarters in New York on the occasion of World Children's Day, which falls on Nov. 20. "Millions of girls and boys like you are in danger, and we are letting them down. They are fleeing deadly conflicts. They are going hungry, or without the medicine they need. They are sepa-



rated from their parents, or making long, dangerous journeys to safety. They are displaced and living in refugee camps far from home." "All this is completely unacceptable. As a global community, we cannot continue failing all the children," said Guterres. Every child has a right to a safe, healthy, peaceful childhood and to develop to their full potential, he said. "Today's children are tomorrow's leaders - tomorrow's presidents and prime ministers, tomorrow's teachers and innovators, tomorrow's mothers and fathers, even tomorrow's secretaries-general of the United Nations." (Xinhua)

US Treasury Slaps Sanctions on 'IRGC-Linked' Individuals, Entities

TEHRAN - In yet another hostile measure against Tehran, the US has slapped sanctions on several individuals and companies for their alleged links with Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC). According to a statement issued by the US Treasury Department on Monday, two Iranian companies and their directors were placed on the latest sanctions list. It also included two German firms. The statement accused the individuals and com-

panies of circumventing European export restrictions in order to provide supplies and equipment to the IRGC. The statement alleged that Iranian national Reza Heidari and Mahmoud Seif had used the companies - ForEnt Technik and Printing Trading Center in Frankfurt, and Rayan Printing and Tejarat Almas Mobin Holding in Tehran - to counterfeit Yemeni bank notes potentially worth hundreds of millions of dollars for the IRGC-Qods Force. (Presstv)

Russian Military Operations in Syria Near Completion: Putin

MOSCOW - Russian President Vladimir Putin told his visiting Syrian counterpart, Bashar al-Assad, that military operations against terrorists in Syria are coming to an end, with the focus shifting to a political process, the Kremlin said Tuesday. "I hope that in the very near future we will put an end to the fight against terrorism in Syria, although it is clear that hotbeds (of terrorism) will continue to emerge," Putin told Assad in a surprising meeting in Russia's Black Sea resort of Sochi

on Monday, according to a Kremlin transcript of the meeting. "I think that now the most important thing, of course, is to turn to a political process," Putin added. Russia started to participate in the anti-terrorist operations in Syria in September 2015. It has now withdrawn the majority of its troops from the war-torn country since December 2016, leaving air forces to back Syrian government troops. At Monday's meeting,



Assad praised Russian military operations, saying that "great successes were achieved, both directly on the battlefield and in the political sphere." Russia's military chief confirmed Tuesday that the active phase of the military operations in Syria is ending, when he met his Iranian and Turkish counterparts in Sochi. (Xinhua)

U.S. Federal Judge Overturns Trump's Fund-Cutting Order to Sanctuary Cities



SAN FRANCISCO - A U.S. federal judge Monday permanently blocked an executive order by President Donald Trump to punish some sanctuary cities by cut-

ting funds over their alleged non-compliance with the government. U.S. District Judge William Orrick of San Francisco said Trump acted unconstitutionally when

he threatened to strip billions of U.S. dollars in federal funding from San Francisco and Santa Clara County in the western U.S. state of California, the so-called "sanctuary cities and counties" which were said to have refused to cooperate fully with federal immigration authorities. "Sanctuary" is used for cities that do not permit police or municipal employees to inquire about one's immigration status, or for funds to be applied to enforce federal immigration laws.

Orrick said in the final ruling that the president had committed multiple constitutional violations - usurping Congress' power over federal spending and trying to defund programs unrelated to immigration and coercing local governments to change their policies. "The president has called (his February order) 'a weapon' to use against jurisdictions that disagree with his preferred policies of immigration enforcement," Orrick said. (Xinhua)

Russia Denies Nuclear Accident after Radioactive Pollution

MOSCOW - Russia on Tuesday denied its nuclear facilities experienced any incidents after reports of contamination by the ruthenium 106 radioactive isotope in parts of the country, and said the concentration detected posed little threat. On Monday, Russia's meteorological service said a station close to the Mayak nuclear facility in Chelyabinsk region in south Urals detected "extremely high pollution" of Ru-106 which exceeded the usual background pollution by 986 times. But a representative of Rosatom nuclear corporation told AFP "there have been no incidents at nuclear infrastructure facilities in Russia." Mayak, which is under Rosatom's umbrella, also said Tuesday that the contamination "has nothing to do with Mayak's activities". The facility, which reprocesses nuclear fuel, added that it has not produced Ru-106 for many years. The chief of Rosgidromet weather service Maksim Yakovenko on Tuesday also said the concentration detected "poses no danger to population's health", adding that it's not the service's job to detect the source. (AFP)

East Asia Summit Leaders Stress Importance of Maintaining Peace, Stability in South China Sea

MANILA - Leaders from the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and its dialogue partners have stressed the importance of maintaining peace, stability and security in the South China Sea, said the chairman's statement of the East Asia Summit (EAS) released here Tuesday. The Philippines, the chair of the 12th EAS, released the statement a week after EAS leaders meeting in Manila on Nov. 14. EAS is an annual meeting of the leaders from the 10 ASEAN members and their eight dialogue partners, namely Australia, China, India, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea, Russia and the United States. In the chairman's statement, EAS leaders took the adoption of the framework for the Code of Conduct (COC) in the South China Sea early this year as a "positive momentum" and welcomed the announcement by China and ASEAN countries that they would start consultations on the text of the COC in the South China Sea and the subsequent convening of the 23rd ASEAN-China Joint Working Group Meeting on the Implementation of the Declaration of the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea in early 2018. The leaders reaffirmed "the importance of the peaceful resolution of disputes and the maintenance of peace, stability and security in the South China Sea." "We stressed the importance for the parties concerned to resolve their disputes by peaceful means," the statement read. Robespierre Bolivar, acting spokesperson of the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs, said on Tuesday that the delay in the release of the EAS chairman's statement was caused by late submissions of "additional comments" by EAS participating countries. (Xinhua)

Trump, Putin Set to Speak Tuesday: White House

WASHINGTON - The White House says President Donald Trump plans to speak with Russian President Vladimir Putin on Tuesday. Trump and Putin spoke informally several times last week when they attended a summit in Vietnam. They agreed on a number of principles for the future of war-torn Syria. Trump's conversation with the Russian president will follow Putin's Monday meeting with Syrian President Bashar Assad (bah-SHAR' AH'-sahd). Putin



hosted Assad at a Black Sea resort ahead of a summit later this week with Russia, Turkey and Iran, as well as U.N.-sponsored peace talks in Geneva. The Kremlin said Tuesday that Assad was called

Trump Administration Announces Sanctions against North Korea

WASHINGTON - The Trump administration plans to announce Tuesday new sanctions on North Korea, after declaring it a state sponsor of terrorism in the latest push to isolate the pariah nation. North Korea has joined Iran, Sudan and Syria on America's terror blacklist, a largely symbolic step as the administration already has the authority to impose virtually any sanctions it wants on Kim Jong Un's government over its nuclear weapons development. As part of its "maximum pressure" campaign, President Donald Trump said the Treasury Department would impose more sanctions on North Korea and "related persons" starting Tuesday, without hinting who or what would be targeted. The move is part of rolling effort to deprive Pyongyang of funds for its nuclear and missile programs and leave it internationally isolated. "It will be the highest level of sanctions by the time it's finished over a two-week period," Trump said. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said Monday the pressure campaign was starting to bite in Pyongyang, which is already facing unprecedented U.N.-mandated sanctions over its nuclear and ballistic missile tests. Tillerson said anecdotal evidence and intelligence suggests the North is now suffering fuel shortages, with queues at gas stations, and its revenues are down. The United States has been applying sanctions of its own as well. In Tokyo, Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe welcomed the move, telling reporters Japan supports the step as a way to increase pressure on North Korea. (AP)

Merkel Says to Lead CDU Again in Case of New Elections after Talks Fail

BERLIN - German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Monday that she would lead CDU (Christian Democratic Union) again in case of new elections, after the exploratory talks for a government coalition failed Sunday night. She was "a woman who has responsibility and is also ready to take on more responsibility," the chancellor told the public broadcaster ZDF. "I'm very skeptical" about leading a minority government, Merkel told ZDF. She added that she was ready to lead Germany for four more years, but that she felt a majority government was necessary for the stability in Germany and Europe. Coalition talks of the CDU and

its Bavarian sister party Christian Social Union (CSU) with the pro-business Free Democratic Party (FDP) and the Greens have failed on Sunday night after the FDP decided to pull out for irreconcilable differences, mostly on immigration and climate. Merkel is now facing the most serious political crisis since she assumed office 12 years ago. Merkel denied that she personally made mistakes in the talks. "I did what I could, and as I said, we really made progress." Hours ahead of Merkel's comments, German President Frank-Walter Steinmeier appeared to rule out snap elections for now, emphasizing instead the obligation each party had to the voters. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

China Calls for Easing Tension on Korean Peninsula Issue

BEIJING - China on Tuesday called for more efforts to ease tension on the Korean Peninsula nuclear issue and settle the issue through dialogue and consultation. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang made the remarks when asked to respond to U.S. President Donald Trump's comments on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Trump on Monday des-

ignated the DPRK as a state sponsor of terror, moving the country back into a list which also includes Iran, Sudan and Syria. Given the complex and sensitive situation on the peninsula, China hopes all parties will do more to ease tensions and return to negotiations, said Lu. The DPRK was removed from the list by George W. Bush in 2008 to assist resolution of the nuclear crisis. (Xinhua)

Pakistan, China Share Common Vision of Peaceful Neighbourhood: PM

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi on Tuesday said Pakistan and China share the vision of a peaceful neighbourhood and would continue to work together for the development and progress of the both Nations. Talking to Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister Kong Xuanyou who led a delegation here at the PM Office, the Prime Minister expressed resolve to further strengthen Pakistan-China strategic cooperation. The Prime Minister expressed satisfaction at the close cooperation between Pakistan and China on all issues of bilateral importance including high-level interactions, China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), trade, security and situation in the region and Afghanistan. He noted that projects

related to CPEC, energy and infrastructure were progressing smoothly and attaining timely completion. He emphasized the need to further intensify cooperation on other CPEC-related projects including human development and livelihood, education and health, so that the benefits of CPEC could trickle down to the common man. The Chinese Assistant Foreign Minister, who is visiting Pakistan for the eighth round of Pakistan-China Strategic Dialogue, conveyed Prime Minister Abbasi the best regards of Premier Li. He appreciated Pakistan's support to China on its core issues and thanked the Prime Minister for his letter of congratulations to the Chinese leadership on the success of 19th CPC Congress. (Monitoring Desk)

Rouhani Declares End of Islamic State

BEIRUT - Iranian President Hassan Rouhani declared the end of Islamic State on Tuesday while a senior military commander thanked the "thousands of martyrs" killed in operations organized by Iran to defeat the militant group in Syria and Iraq. "Today with God's guidance and the resistance of people in the region we can say that this evil has either been lifted from the head of the people or has been reduced," Rouhani said in an address broadcast live on state TV. "Of course the remnants will continue but the foundation and roots have been destroyed." Major General Qassem Soleimani, a senior commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, also

said Islamic State had been defeated, in a message sent on Tuesday to Iran's supreme leader which was published on the Guards' news site, Sepah News. Iranian media have often carried video and pictures of Soleimani, who commands the Quds Force, the branch of the Guards responsible for operations outside Iran, at frontline positions in battles against Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. The Revolutionary Guards, a powerful military force which also oversees an economic empire worth billions of dollars, has been fighting in support of Syrian president Bashar al-Assad and the central government in Baghdad for several years. (Reuters)

Uzbekistan President to Visit Korea on Wednesday

TASHKENT - President of Uzbekistan Shavkat Mirziyoyev will arrive in Korea, Wednesday, for a four-day state visit, according to Cheong Wa Dae. It will be the first visit to Korea by Mirziyoyev who took office last December. This year also marks the 25th year of Korea-Uzbekistan diplomatic ties and the 80th year of Goryeoins' (ethnic Koreans) resettlement in Central Asia, it said. On the second day of the visit, he will participate in the opening ceremony of a Korea-Uzbekistan business forum, and offer flowers at a memorial tower in Seoul National Cemetery. In the afternoon, Moon and Mirziyoyev will hold

a summit at the presidential office following a welcoming ceremony. "The two leaders will review the nations' strategic partnership and discuss ways for more practical cooperation for future-oriented relations," said Nam Gwan-pyo, deputy chief of the National Security Office. After the bilateral talks, the two leaders will take part in a signing ceremony for memorandums of understanding for economic and social cooperation. A state dinner will be prepared in the evening for the Uzbek president and first lady. On Friday, Mirziyoyev will deliver an address at the National Assembly, as the first Uzbek president to do so. (Agencies)