

Chinese Business Circles Oppose B20 Summit Report of Policy Proposals

BUENOS AIRES - The Chinese business circles opposed the report of policy proposals from the two-day B20 summit 2018 held here, saying the summit result failed to truly base itself on the topic discussions or consensus.

On behalf of the Chinese business circles, the China Council for the Promotion of International Trade (CCPIT) and the B20 China Business Council respectively issued a statement on Friday in strong opposition to the policy proposals report as a result of the B20 summit held on Oct. 4-5 in the Argentine capital.

The Chinese business organizations both noted in the statements that Chinese enterprises had taken an active part in the B20 summit this year, put



forward multiple conducive proposals during discussions of the working parties on all topics, including fighting unilateralism and protectionism, adopting the principle of neutrality in dealing with enterprises of different

ownerships, and advancing the reforms in the World Trade Organization (WTO). The proposals by Chinese enterprises outlined their stances and the concerns, they said. And in the meantime, the Chinese rep-

resentatives had conducted multiple consultations with the summit host, and submitted proposed amendments to the text of the summit result report.

The statements said that however, the B20 summit report of policy proposals ignored the proper concerns and demands of the Chinese business circles by one-sidedly singling out certain topics, including state-owned enterprises distorting market competition. The statements said the summit result report failed to properly represent the discussions, fell short of the purpose of the B20 summit report of policy proposals, and ran far against the B20 summit's consensus principle. (Xinhua)

Neighbor News

Pakistan's Opposition Leader Shahbaz Sharif Remanded for 10 Days in Corruption Case

LAHORE - Pakistan's opposition leader and former chief minister of eastern Punjab province Shahbaz Sharif has been remanded for 10 days in a corruption case by the accountability court and he was handed over to the anti-graft body for further investigation here on Saturday, local media and lawyers said. Earlier in the day, the National Accountability Bureau (NAB) presented Shahbaz before the court and requested his 15-day remand for further probe into the graft case, but the court allowed 10-day remand, senior legal expert and lawyer Saad Rasool told media. Shahbaz was arrested Friday by NAB, the anti-

graft body of Pakistan, for his alleged misappropriations in Ashiana Housing Scheme in the eastern Lahore district during his two consecutive tenures as the Punjab chief minister from 2008 to 2018, an official statement said.

Shahbaz, the opposition leader in the National Assembly or the lower house of the parliament, has been facing an inquiry regarding the scam after the housing scheme for poor people failed due to alleged corruption. For his part, according to local media, Shahbaz told the court Saturday that he didn't do any corruption and demanded an open court trail. (Xinhua)

Indian President to Embark on 3-Day Visit to Tajikistan

NEW DELHI - Indian President Ram Nath Kovind will be on a standalone state visit to Tajikistan on Oct. 7-9, official sources said on Saturday.

This will be Kovind's first visit to Central Asia since he took over the country's highest office last year.

During his visit, the Indian president will meet his Tajikistan counterpart Emamoli Rahmon. Besides, Tajikistan Prime Minister Qohir Rasulzoda and Speaker of lower house of parliament Shukurjon Zuhurov will call on him.

India's junior defence minister Shubhash Bhamre and parliamentarian Shamsheer Singh Manhas will be a part of the Indian President's official delegation, said a statement issued by the Ministry of External

Affairs. During the visit, all areas of bilateral, regional and multilateral cooperation are expected to be discussed. India-Tajikistan bilateral relations have steadily grown and have diversified in many fields. Since 2012 both countries have elevated their relationship to the level of strategic partnership.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi visited Tajikistan in 2015 as part of his visit to all the five Central Asian countries.

Tajikistan President Rahmon has visited India five times. India and Tajikistan are engaged in bilateral cooperation in multifarious fields to promote their trade and investment. The bilateral trade had reached almost 74 million U.S. dollars last year. (Xinhua)

Uzbekistan Introduces Visa-Free Regime for French Citizens

TASHKENT - Uzbekistan introduced a visa-free regime for French citizens, Uzbek media reported citing the presidential decree on the issue.

The visa-free regime is introduced in order to create favorable conditions for the development of international relations between Uzbekistan and France, promote cultural, scientific, educational exchange, improve the investment climate and positively influence the development of tourism potential.

The visa-free regime is

valid for 30 days.

The number of French tourists visiting Uzbekistan is growing annually. In 2016 their number was 4,889 people, in 2017 - 5,748 people and in the first eight months of 2018 - 9,172 people, which is almost two times more than in the entire 2017. Cooperation in the tourism sector between Uzbekistan and France, promote cultural, scientific, educational exchange, improve the investment climate and positively influence the development of tourism potential. The memorandum signed on November 2, 2011. (Trend)

Iran among World's Top 10 Egg, Chicken Producers

TEHRAN - Speaking on the occasion of National Veterinary Day, he pointed to the key role of veterinarians in the country and said, "boosting health of society is the main task of veterinarians who are shouldering the great responsibility in this area."

In addition, veterinarians play an outstanding and valuable role in nutritional health issues, the minister added. Elsewhere in his remarks, Hojjati pointed to the key role of veterinarians in spurring national economy and also economy of industrial-production units and put the country's total animal productions value at more than \$15 billion.

Outbreak of any irregularity in this sector can bring about a lot of health problems in the country, he said, adding, "for example, we witnessed serious problems in the field of outbreak of avian flu in the country in the past."

The outbreak of avian flu left adverse effects and incurred damage to the industrial and production units as well, he added. (Agencies) Iran Marks National Children's Week
TEHRAN - The National Children's Week 2018 is being held in Iran from October 5 to 11 under the theme of "The Future To Be Made", Fars news agency reported on Saturday. (Agencies)

Slovak Pm Says 'Deeds Not Words' Needed to Restore Trust after Reporter's Murder

STRBSKE PLESO, Slovakia - Slovakia must produce deeds not words to stamp out corruption and mafia-style crime, the prime minister said, after the murder of a journalist investigating EU subsidy fraud rattled the nation and prompted the resignation of his predecessor. Prime Minister Peter Pellegrini said the killing in February of 27-year-old reporter Jan Kuciak, who was found shot dead at his home along with his fiancée, had tarnished Slovakia's image.

Kuciak brought attention to Italian businessmen in Slovakia with suspected mafia links and their alleged subsidy fraud in eastern Slovakia. Pellegrini said his cabinet had initiated legislation to strengthen the independence of the police chief to tackle corruption. He said his government was looking at new systems to prevent subsidy fraud. "We will not tolerate any mafia in Slovakia. Not in the field of (agricultural) subsidies, not in the field of EU funds. (Reuters)

Pompeo Seeks Allied Unity on North Korea Denuke Effort

TOKYO - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pledged Saturday that the Trump administration's effort to get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons would be fully coordinated with allies Japan and South Korea, as he prepared to travel to Pyongyang under pressure to produce tangible progress toward that goal. Pompeo met Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe in Tokyo on the eve of his fourth visit to North

Korea, during which he'll be looking to arrange a second summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and plot a path forward on denuclearization. Japan, notably, has been wary of Trump's initiative, fearing it could affect its long-standing security relationship with the U.S.

Pompeo told Abe that it is important for him to hear from the Japanese leader "so we have a fully coord-



inated and unified view" and vowed to raise the cases of Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea when he sees Kim and officials in Pyongyang on Sunday. Pompeo will then travel to South Korea and China to review the negotiations. (AP)

Two Republican Senators, Two Divergent Paths on Kavanaugh



WASHINGTON - Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski turned against Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh quietly, utter-

ing a single word: "No." Sen. Susan Collins of Maine, her longtime friend and fellow moderate Republican, spoke on the Senate floor for

45 minutes, explaining her support for Kavanaugh in detail. Though they reached opposite conclusions, both women had faced similar political pressure heading into Friday's key vote on Kavanaugh's high court nomination. As moderates who support abortion rights, their joint opposition could have been enough to sink Kavanaugh, whose nomination was thrust into uncertainty following sexual assault allegations.

Ultimately, it was Collins who put Kavanaugh on the brink of a lifetime appointment. Minutes after she finished speaking, West Virginia Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin said he, too, would back Kavanaugh, ensuring at least 51 "yes" votes in the Senate. All three senators - along with Arizona Republican Jeff Flake - had been publicly undecided for weeks as they faced unrelenting pressure from both sides. (AP)

Italy Says 'No Plan B' to Spending Plans Despite Eu Alarm

ROME - Italy's deputy premier is vowing to press ahead with spending plans after the European Commission expressed "serious concern" over what it termed a "significant deviation" from previous targets. Five-Star leader Luigi Di Maio said Saturday "there is no plan B" to plans that will increase the deficit to 2.4 percent of annual gross domestic product next year. European Commission Vice President Valdis Dombrovskis and Econ-

omy Commissioner Pierre Moscovici penned a joint letter to Economy Minister Giovanni Tria on Friday "taking note" of the plans, which haven't yet been formally submitted to Brussels. They vowed to hold a "constructive dialogue" to ensure the eurozone's third-largest economy complies with EU fiscal rules. Italy's spending plans aim to satisfy election promises for a basic income for job seekers, tax cuts and pension reform. (AP)

Eu's Tusk Says Brexit Deal Possible by End of 2018

KRAKOW, Poland - European Council President Donald Tusk said on Saturday it was possible to agree a deal with Britain on leaving the European Union by the end of 2018.

Speaking on the sidelines of a conference in Krakow, Poland, Tusk said: "We will try for it in October ... and I think there is a chance to have an accord by the end of the year." (Reuters)

Interpol Asks China for Info on Agency's Missing President

PARIS - Interpol has made a formal request to China for information about the agency's missing president, citing concerns for the well-being of the senior Chinese security official who seemingly vanished on a trip home.

The Lyon-based international police agency says Saturday it used law-enforcement channels to submit its request about the status of Meng Hongwei. It says the agency "looks forward to an official response from China's authorities to address concerns over the president's well-being."

Meng's wife says she hasn't heard from him since he left the French city of Lyon at the end of September to go to China. France has launched its own investigation. French authorities say he boarded a plane and arrived in China, but the 64-year-old's subsequent whereabouts are unknown. Meng is also a vice minister for public security in China. (AP)

Indonesia Considers Making Devastated Areas Mass Graves

PALU, Indonesia - Search teams pulled bodies from obliterated neighborhoods in the disaster-stricken Indonesian city of Palu on Saturday as more aid rolled in and the government said it was considering making devastated areas into mass graves.

Indonesia's disaster agency said the death toll from the powerful earthquake and tsunami climbed to 1,649, with at least 265 people still missing, though it said that number could be higher. More nations sent aid and humanitarian workers fanned out in the countryside. The dead were still being recovered more than



a week after the double disaster. Eight victims in black body bags of the national search and rescue agency were arranged in a row in the crumpled Palu neighborhood of Balaroa, destined for a mass grave. Relatives cried as peo-

ple placed long pieces of white cloth, to represent a Muslim burial rite, inside the bags. Among them was 39-year-old Rudy Rahman, who said the bodies of his 18- and 16-year-old sons had been found. (AP)

Austria's Ex-Chancellor Kern Quits Politics, will not Run in European Elections

VIENNA - Opposition leader Christian Kern said on Saturday he would leave politics and not run as the top candidate for the Austrian Social Democrats in European parliamentary elections next year, giving in to pressure from party critics. Just a few weeks after announcing his intention to run in the elections,

the 52-year-old former chancellor blamed internal party disputes for his decision, saying he would be unable to focus on European politics. "As a former head of government, it is not possible to leave the domestic political stage," Kern said at a last-minute news conference in Vienna. "For me, this is the end as a professional politician." (Reuters)

UN Agency Vows to Maintain Jerusalem Services



JERUSALEM - The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees is vowing to continue operations in Jerusalem despite Israeli plans to remove it.

The Relief and Works Agency, or UNRWA, said Saturday that education, health care and other services to Palestinian residents of east Jerusalem are "important work."

On Thursday, Jerusalem Mayor Nir Barkat said Israeli authorities will take over UNRWA's services, most notably schooling for 1,800 students, without giving an exact timeline. UNRWA has operated in east Jerusalem, which Palestinians demand as a future capital, since Israel occupied it in 1967. The Trump administration, however, cut \$300 million in annual aid to the agency, demanding reforms.

The agency was established following the 1948 Mideast war that led to Israel's creation. Today, it aids 5 million Palestinians, mostly refugee descendants. Israel says this perpetuates conflict with the Palestinians. (AP)