

# New UN General Assembly President Lays out Promises and Priorities

UNITED NATIONS - The 72nd session of the UN General Assembly - the world organization's all 193-member body - opened on Tuesday with a promise from its new top official to make the upcoming year one of "firsts." President Miroslav Lajcak saw those "firsts" in compacts on migration, fighting sexual exploitation and abuse in peacekeeping, eliminating nuclear weapons and a first high-level event on sustaining peace. But, Lajcak said it would also be a year of "follow-ups" to earlier "firsts," because, "Firsts" bring photographers and celebrations. Follow-up often



comes with challenges and complications. Over the coming year, we will need to maintain the momentum in implementing and financing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," referring to the 2030 Agenda of 17 goals. "We must work to ensure that the Paris Climate Agreement is integrated into national, regional and international frameworks," the new president said. "We must follow our commitments from yesterday with actions now. We cannot let reports or events or resolutions of the past be relegated to the UN's archives. (Xinhua)

## U.S. State Department Says New DPRK Sanctions "Tremendously Significant"

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department said on Tuesday its was pleased with the UN Security Council's latest sanctions on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), calling them "tremendously significant." It was the strongest set of sanctions slapped on the DPRK, showing that "the world is acting together and worried and tremendously concerned about the destabilizing activities" by Pyongyang, said Heath-

er Nauert, the spokeswoman for the state department, in a daily briefing. The UN Security Council on Monday unanimously adopted a resolution to impose new sanctions on the DPRK over its nuclear test on Sept. 3. The new sanctions severely restrict oil imports, and ban all of its textile exports worth 800 million U.S. dollars and remittances of some 93,000 DPRK laborers from abroad. (Xinhua)

## S. Korea Says Trilateral Summit with U.S., Japan in New York under Discussion

SEOUL - South Korea's presidential Blue House said Wednesday that the country was discussing with the United States and Japan to hold the trilateral summit meeting in New York on the sidelines of the UN plenary session scheduled for next week. An unidentified Blue House official was quoted by local media outlets as saying that holding the trilateral summit in New York among South Korean President Moon Jae-in, U.S. President Donald Trump and Japa-

nese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe was under discussion. Moon was slated to visit New York from next Monday to Friday to attend the 72nd UN plenary session. According to Japanese government officials cited by a Japanese newspaper, the trilateral summit was expected to be held next Thursday. The Blue House official was quoted as saying the office was also discussing Trump's visit to South



Korea in November. The trilateral summit would come amid rising political risks on the Korean Peninsula, caused by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK)'s sixth nuclear test on Sept. 3. The UN Security Council has unanimously approved a fresh resolution toughening sanctions on the DPRK. (Xinhua)

## Qatari FM Meets Erdogan to Boost Ties Amid Gulf Diplomatic Rift



DOHA - Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohamed bin Abdulrahman al-Thani met Tuesday with Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in An-

kara, Qatar's state news agency (QNA) reported Wednesday. During the meeting, they discussed bilateral relations, means to strength-

en and develop them, as well as topics of common interest, QNA said. Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain and Egypt severed diplomatic ties with Qatar and imposed a boycott on it in early June, accusing the tiny gas-rich country of supporting terrorism and seeking closer ties with Iran, a Saudi rival. They initially gave Doha a list of 13 demands, including scaling back ties with Iran, shutting down the Al Jazeera network and ending Turkey's military presence in the

country. Qatar has strongly denied the charges against it and refused to accept any of the demands. Since the start of the crisis, Qatar and Turkey have come closer together, as the latter opened a new land trade route via Iran to Qatar and transported goods, including food products, to the boycotted country. In July, Turkey sent a 25-member Turkish artillery unit to Qatar, adding to 150 troops already there. (Xinhua)

## Shoigu Meets with Assad, Conveys Putin's Congrats over Deir Al-Zour Progress

DAMASCUS - Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu met with Syrian President Bashar al-Assad on Tuesday, conveying Russian President Vladimir Putin's congratulations on the Deir al-Zour progress, state news agency SANA reported. Both have talked about the cooperation between the Syrian and Russian military forces to carry on with the offensive to fully liberate Deir al-Zour city from the terrorists, said SANA. The rare visit signifies the

strong alliance between Damascus and Moscow, as the Russian air force has played a major role in enabling the Syrian army to break the Islamic State (IS) siege on Deir al-Zour in eastern Syria last week. Moscow has also sent 157 engineers to defuse mines left by IS in Deir al-Zour. The Syrian army has lifted the siege to the capital city of Deir al-Zour by breaking into the terrorist group's defense line around the Brigade 137 base of the Syrian army. (Xinhua)

## China, EU and Canada to Take Lead on Climate at Montreal Meeting

LONDON - A changing of the climate guard from Washington to China, Europe and Canada will occur on Saturday, when ministers and representatives of up to 30 major economies convene in Montreal for the first climate talks since the US withdrew from the Paris agreement. Shadowed by two record-breaking US hurricanes in one week, the meeting will be co-convened by Brussels, Beijing and Ottawa - in what EU sources describe as a "pretty remarkable achievement", given past differences between China, the developing nations and the West. (Agencies)

## Grab Brexit Chance to Forge a Tighter EU: Juncker

STRASBOURG - European Commission chief Jean-Claude Juncker urged EU governments on Wednesday to use economic recovery and Brexit as springboards toward a closer union, built on an expanded euro zone and a pivotal role in world trade. In his annual State of the European Union speech, Juncker sketched out a vision of a post-2019 EU where some 30 countries would be using the euro, with an EU finance minister running key budgets to help states in trouble. Tax and welfare standards would converge and Europe, not the United States, would be the hub of a free-trading world. The EU chief executive stressed his wish to heal divisions between eastern and western states. He sees that as vital to countering a drive, including by founding powers France and Germany, to set up new structures within the bloc that would exclude some poorer, ex-communist members in the east. (Reuters)

## Berlin Considers Adding Turkey to List of Countries Posing Security Risk

BERLIN - Germany is considering conducting security screenings for officials traveling to or having personal ties with Turkey, an Interior Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday. As tensions between Berlin and Ankara show no sign of abetting, Turkey could hereby be included in the "list of states" making additional controls mandatory in accordance with Germany's security screening law. Around 35 countries were included in the list on account of posing high security risks for intelligence agents, police officers and military officials. If included, officials with ties to Turkey could be barred from traveling there on vacation, and marriage to a Turkish citizen be classified as a risk factor. Relations between Germany and Turkey have come under severe strain over the past year, due to political arrests of several German citizens by Turkish security forces, among other factors. (Xinhua)



## French PM Insists on Pushing Through Controversial Labor Reform

PARIS - French Prime Minister Edouard Philippe said on Wednesday that he was aware of the public anger over the controversial labor reform, but insisted that the new regulations would be pushed through. "The protest I respect it, it exists, it is there, I listen. Freedom to demonstrate is a fundamental right in France and those who are concerned or opposed this text have the perfect right to protest," Philippe told France 2 television. "I am listening and I am paying attention. But let me allow myself to state that the French, when they vote, also have a right to be treated with respect. And

the reform that we are putting in place, it was announced by the president at the time of the election," he added. Philippe's remarks came a day after street protests took place nationwide. CGT hard-line union said 400,000 protesters took party in the protests across the country while police set the number at 223,000. Denouncing "social coup d'etat," demonstrators headed by figures from the hard-left "Unbowed France" party refused a reform aimed to lessen labor rules and offer the companies more freedom in terms of recruitment, firing and pay conditions. (Xinhua)

## U.S., Russian Diplomatic Row Should not be Escalated: State Department

WASHINGTON - The U.S. State Department said on Tuesday the current diplomatic row between Russia and the United States should not be escalated. The Secretary of State Rex Tillerson "believes that no further escalatory action is necessary at his point and we look forward to trying to forge ahead," State Department spokesperson Heather Nauert said at a news briefing. U.S. President Donald Trump's administration on Aug. 31 ordered Russia to close three diplomatic facilities in the United States as the diplomatic spat between Washington and Moscow continued to escalate.

The tit-for-tat action came after Russian President Vladimir Putin in July ordered the United States to reduce the number of diplomatic personnel in Russia by 755, in response to U.S. sanctions on Russia over its alleged intervention in the 2016 U.S. presidential election. The diplomatic row also came at a low point of bilateral relationship between Washington and Moscow, as the two sides hold differences on a range of issues, including the war in Syria and the conflict in Ukraine. However, Putin's move was not the origin of this round of diplomatic row between Russian and the United States and rather a delayed response to former U.S. President Barack Obama's expulsion of 35 Russian diplomats and seizure of two Russian diplomatic facilities last year out of alleged Russian meddling in the U.S. election. (Xinhua)

## Neighbor News

### China Ready to Promote Reform of Global Governance System: FM

BEIJING - A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson said Wednesday that China stands ready to join the international community to actively promote the reform of global governance system. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Geng Shuang made the remarks regarding reports that the 71st session of the United Nations (UN) General Assembly recently adopted a resolution which incorporates the principle of "extensive consultation, joint contribution and shared benefits" put forward by China. He said that this principle emphasizes that all relevant parties should consult, work and benefit together, embodying the vision of equality, cooperation and win-win outcomes. Against the backdrop of the intertwining of the interests of all countries and the rising of all sorts of global chal-

enges, the principle is of important practical significance. Geng said that previously, the resolutions adopted by relevant organs of the UN also contained content such as the building of the Belt and Road Initiative and the community of shared future for mankind that were proposed by China. This demonstrates that Chinese voices, proposals and wisdom are gaining understanding, support and response from an increasing number of countries and are becoming the consensus of the international community. China stands ready to follow the above-mentioned principles and visions to actively promote the reform of global governance system so as to make it better mirror the changes of the international landscape and better serve all countries around the world, he said. (Xinhua)

### Abbasi Urges

### Parliamentarians to Address Issues of Masses on Priority

ISLAMABAD - Pakistani Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi Wednesday urged the parliamentarians to renew efforts and increase their outreach to the people to address issues on priority. Talking to a delegation of PML (N) MNAs from Sargodha Division called on here at the PM Office, he asked them to especially focus on development and welfare schemes in those constituencies that have not been at par with others in terms of development. (Monitoring Desk)

The Prime Minister said the present government ensured completion of even those critical projects which were dormant for decades. He asked the MNAs to continue developmental agenda and ensure that no region or constituency was left behind in journey toward progress and prosperity. Developmental projects and matters pertaining to the respective constituencies of MNAs were discussed during the meeting. (Monitoring Desk)

### Zarif in Sochi to Discuss Regional Issues with Russian Officials

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has traveled to the Black Sea resort city of Sochi to exchange views with Russian officials on regional developments. Zarif arrived in Sochi on Wednesday and is expected to meet his Russian counterpart, Sergei Lavrov, among other officials. Russia's Deputy Foreign Minister Mikhail Bogdanov said on Tuesday that Zarif's discussions would focus on the current situation in the Middle East, particularly Syria. "The talks will center round everything that concerns the Middle East, Syria, the situation in the region in general," he told Russia's TASS news agency. Bogdanov also noted that his country has "close contacts with the Iranians, on-going consultations on all issues, including concerning the situation in Iraq, in the [Persian] Gulf, on counter-terrorism efforts." Consultations ahead of Astana talks. In a relevant development on Wednesday, a working group of the three countries acting as guarantors of a ceasefire in Syria, namely Iran, Russia and Turkey, began consultations in Astana, in the run-up to the sixth round of the intra-Syrian talks in the Kazakh capital. (Presstv)

### Turkmenistan Discloses Date of Int'l Conference

ASHGABAT - The 22nd International Conference "Oil & Gas Turkmenistan - OGI 2017" will be held in Ashgabat on November 2-3, 2017, the Turkmen Oil state concern said in a message Sept. 13. According to the message, the summit will be organized by the Turkmen Oil state concern and co-organized by UK's Summit Trade Events Ltd. Turkmenistan ranks second in natural gas reserves in the CIS after Russia. At present, gas

is supplied to Iran and China. The annual production of natural gas is planned to be brought up to 250 billion cubic meters, while annual production of oil - up to 110 million tons till 2030 in accordance with the Program for the Development of the Turkmen Oil and Gas Industry. The large-scale work on oil and gas exploration, production, transportation and providing the domestic market with oil products will continue. (Trend)