

U.S. Calls on China to Confront N Korea



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (L) and China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi take their seats before a meeting on the sidelines of a gathering of foreign ministers of the G20 in Bonn, western Germany, on February 17, 2017. (Photo by AFP)

BONN (Press TV) - U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson has called on China to help rein in North Korea's provocative actions after Pyongyang launched its latest ballistic missile test early this week.

The top U.S. diplomat made the plea on the sidelines of a first-time meeting with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, during a G20 foreign ministers summit in the German city of Bonn on Friday.

"Tillerson also highlighted the increasing threat posed by North Korea's nuclear and missile programs and urged China to use all available tools to moderate North Korea's destabilizing behaviour," US State Department spokesman Mark Toner said.

Following Tillerson's comments, Chinese foreign ministry

issued a statement quoting Wang as saying, "China and the United States have joint responsibility to maintain global stability and promote global prosperity, and both sides' joint interests are far greater than their differences."

The statement added that, "The two countries should increase mutual trust, deepen cooperation and ensure that under Trump they make even greater contributions to global peace and prosperity."

The remarks are made while Beijing, which is North Korea's only ally and main trading partner, has so far shown itself reluctant to put too much pressure on Pyongyang over its previous series of ballistic and nuclear missile tests.

South Korea's Defense Ministry announced on Sunday that its northern neighbor had launched a

missile test near the western city of Kusong, adding that the missile had flown 500 kilometers eastwards before falling into the Sea of Japan

North Korea's official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) confirmed a day later that Pyongyang had "successfully" tested a "surface-to-surface medium long-range ballistic missile."

The launch has concerned Japan and South Korea and their ally the United States. Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was visiting U.S. President Donald Trump in Florida when the launch occurred, called the test "absolutely intolerable."

Trump reacted to the test only by saying that the U.S. stood behind Japan, "its great ally, 100 percent."

Gambia's New President Faces Inauguration as Nation Cheers



File photo, Gambia President Adama Barrow waves as he rides his motorcade through crowds of hundreds of thousands after arriving at Banjul airport in Gambia, after flying in from Dakar.

BANJUL (AP) — Thousands gathered Saturday for the ceremony marking the inauguration of Gambia's new president as this tiny West African nation celebrates wider freedoms after a tense political standoff with its former leader.

Several heads of state were attending the ceremony for President Adama Barrow. He was sworn into office last month at Gambia's embassy in neighboring Senegal as former leader Yahya Jammeh refused to cede

power.

International pressure, including the threat of a regional military intervention, led Jammeh to finally accept his December election loss and fly into exile in Equatorial Guinea. Hundreds of thousands of Gambians welcomed Barrow's return to Gambia days later.

Barrow, who has just turned 52 and was born the year that Gambia gained independence, has pledged to reverse many of the actions Jammeh took during more

than two decades of power. He has committed to stay in the International Criminal Court and rejoin the Commonwealth. He also has vowed to free political prisoners.

The international community has quickly warmed to Barrow's approach, with the European Union recently announcing an \$80 million package of support after breaking off assistance amid tensions with Jammeh.

British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson visited Barrow on Tuesday, saying: "We are here to help."

Gambians at Independence Stadium on Saturday cheered Independent Electoral Commission chairman Alieu Momarr Njai, who had to flee to Senegal during the political crisis after standing by the election results.

Senegal's President Macky Sall was among the honorary guests at the ceremony protected by troops from the West African bloc, ECOWAS. The regional force has been securing the country during the transition, which has remained peaceful.

Sall said Gambia and Senegal, a regional power that surrounds the tiny country except for its coast, must strengthen economic and other relations. Many Senegalese live in Gambia.

Bosnia to Appeal Ruling Clearing Serbia of Genocide



Chairman of the Tripartite Bosnian Presidency Mladen Ivanic listens to a question during a news conference after a meeting with Croatian President Kolinda Grabar-Kitarovic (not pictured) in Sarajevo, March 3, 2015. Photo by REUTERS

SARAJEVO (AFP) - Bosnia will ask the United Nations' top court to review its 2007 ruling which cleared Serbia of genocide during the country's civil war, Bosnia's Muslim leader said Friday.

The move announced by Bakir Izetbegovic, the Muslim member of Bosnia's tripartite presidency, could spark a new political crisis in the Balkans country which remains deeply divided along ethnic lines since the 1992-1995 war.

Serb presidency member Mladen Ivanic said Tuesday that such a decision by Muslim officials would "threaten peace and stability in Bosnia."

Izetbegovic said the request for revision would be forwarded to the Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) next week -- just a few days before a 10-year deadline expires.

"Everyone needs the truth, even those who oppose it, a truth that will be written by international judges, experienced and impartial," Izetbegovic told reporters after meeting with some 50 Bosnian Muslim politicians, legal experts and representatives of war victims' associations.

Bosnian Serb officials say such a request cannot be made without consensus within the tripartite presidency.

But Izetbegovic insists it can and said it would be done by a lawyer the presidency appointed in 2002.

Bosnia's legal team has "new arguments," notably those presented during the trial of Bosnian Serb wartime army chief Ratko Mladic who is awaiting judgment at a UN tribunal, Izetbegovic said.

In Belgrade, Serbian Prime Minister Aleksandar Vucic labeled the decision "difficult and bad" for ties between the two neighboring countries.

"Despite everything, I'm convinced that we will manage to preserve our national interests," Vucic said quoted by the Blic paper online edition.

"However, we will continue to talk with Bosnian officials, wishing to assure a lasting peace in the Balkans."

Bosnian Serb leader Milorad Dodik called ethnic Serb politicians to "challenge the legitimacy" of the demand for revision with the ICJ.

In the original case launched in 1993 by Bosnia's then Muslim-dominated government, Sarajevo accused Belgrade of masterminding a genocide through widespread "ethnic cleansing" during the war which killed more than 100,000.

Germany Bans 'Spy' Doll Cayla



BERLIN (Dispatches)-A German regulator has warned parents of the dangers of a children's toy called My Friend Cayla. The doll, capable of revealing personal data, is a de facto "espionage device," a federal agency said.

"Items that conceal cameras or microphones and that are capable of transmitting a signal, and therefore can transmit data without detection, compromise people's privacy," said its head, Jochen Homann.

"This applies in particular to children's toys. The Cayla doll has been banned in Germany. This is also to protect the most vulnerable in our society."

The doll, which is manufactured by the US company Genesis Toys

and distributed in Europe by Guildford-based Vivid Toy Group, allows children to access the internet via speech recognition software, and to control the toy via an app.

Under German law it is illegal to manufacture, sell or possess surveillance devices disguised as another object. According to some media reports, breaching that law can result in a jail term of up to two years.

Vivid Toy Group has not responded to a request for a comment on the German ruling. Previously the company has said examples of hacking were isolated and carried out by specialists, but it was looking into upgrading the app used along with the doll.

News in Brief

TRIPOLI (Press TV)-Libyans have celebrated the 6th anniversary of their revolution which led to the fall of former longtime dictator, Muammar Gaddafi.

They took to the streets of the country's capital, Tripoli, and other major cities on Friday to mark the sixth anniversary of the 2011 uprising, which saw the overthrow and death of their ruler.

Thousands gathered in the capital's Martyrs' Square, waving Libyan flags and chanting slogans as a tribute to the revolution, with security forces deployed to ensure that the commemoration was trouble-free.

BUENOS AIRES (Reuters) - A bus traveling to Chile flipped over in Argentina's Mendoza province early on Saturday, killing at least 19 people on a remote mountain road in the Andes, local authorities said.

Turbus, the Chilean company operating the vehicle, confirmed the crash on Route 7 in the Aconcagua park in a statement. It gave no casualty figures and said it did not know why the bus turned over.

A civil defense spokesman in Mendoza said there were 19 confirmed deaths.

SEOUL (AFP) - Handcuffed and bound with ropes, the heir of electronics giant Samsung appeared for questioning Saturday over his alleged involvement in the corruption scandal currently engulfing South Korean President Park Geun-Hye.

Among other allegations, Lee is accused of paying nearly \$40 million in bribes to a confidante of the impeached president to secure policy favours.

The conglomerate's de facto head stared straight ahead as he was greeted by a horde of journalists and camera flashes upon his arrival at the office of special prosecutors investigating the case.

SPIJKENISSE (AP) — Anti-Islam populist Geert Wilders has kicked off his campaign Saturday for Dutch parliamentary elections, amid tight security and intense media interest in a blue-collar town near Rotterdam.

Surrounded by police and trailed by a small group of protesters and a much larger throng of journalists, Wilders handed out fliers and posed for selfies with supporters at a market in Spijkenisse.

Wilders, whose party now has 12 lawmakers in the 150-seat lower house of Parliament, is riding high in polls, with most putting him narrowly ahead of the right-wing party of two-term Prime Minister Mark Rutte.