

Rwanda Somberly Marks the Start of Genocide 25 Years Ago

KIGALI, Rwanda — Rwanda on Sunday somberly commemorated the start, 25 years ago, of its genocide in which some 800,000 people were killed, as the country continues to grapple with the lasting consequences of the mass killings.

President Paul Kagame and first lady Jeannette Kagame laid wreaths and lit a flame at the mass burial ground of 250,000 victims at the Kigali Genocide Memorial Center in the capital, Kigali.

Those attending the ceremonies included the leaders of Chad, Congo Brazzaville, Djibouti, Niger, Belgium, Canada, Ethiopia, as well as the African Union and the European Union.

"I am moved beyond words at



this memorial to tragedy," said Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the European Commission.

There will be a procession through the capi-

tal to Kigali's National Stadium where are many as 30,000 are expected to participate in an evening candlelit ceremony.

"Twenty-five years ago, Rwanda fell into a

deep ditch due to bad leadership, today, we are a country of hope and a nation elevated," Agnes Mutamba, 25, a teacher who was born during the genocide told The Associated Press in Kigali.

"Today, the government has united all Rwandans as one people with the same culture and history and is speeding up economic reformation," said Oliver Nduhungihere, Rwanda's state foreign affairs minister. The mass killing of Rwanda's Tutsi minority was ignited on April 6, 1994, when a plane carrying President Juvénal Habyarimana was shot down and crashed in Kigali, killing the leader who, like the majority of Rwandans, was an ethnic Hutu. ...*(More on P4)...(12)*

Neighbor News

India May Attack Pakistan in Mid-April, Islamabad Says Citing 'Reliable Intelligence'

ISLAMABAD - The Indian military may attack Pakistan sometime in less than two weeks, Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi claimed citing "reliable intelligence." The two nuclear powers had a major flare up of tensions in February.

"We have reliable intelligence that India is planning a new attack on Pakistan. As per our information this could take place between April 16 and 20," Qureshi announced. The minister, who was visiting his hometown, told journalists that Pakistan shared its concerns with the five permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The official would not elaborate on what evidence Islamabad has to back his claim, but indicated he was speaking on the instruction of Prime Minister Imran Khan. India would not immediately respond to the allegations. Tensions between the nuclear-armed rival neighbors escalated this year after a suicide bombing attack killed dozens of Indian police troops in the disputed region of Kashmir in mid-February. Two weeks later, Indian warplanes conducted an air raid on Pakistani territory, targeting what India said was a training camp of the militant group which claimed credit for the attack. (RT)

Netanyahu, Challenger: 2 Front-Runners in Israel Elections

JERUSALEM - Israel's long-serving Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is the favorite to win Israel's general election this week but he faces serious corruption charges and a stiff challenge from a former military chief, Benny Gantz, who has positioned himself as the country's savior. The campaigning has heated up ahead of Tuesday's balloting and major polls show the two front-runners neck and neck. Here's a closer look at two men vying for the job:

Netanyahu is on track to score a fourth straight term — and fifth overall — and break the record for Israel's longest-serving leader. As a fixture of the Israeli political scene for over three decades, "Bibi" Netanyahu has become the face of Israel on the world stage. He has run on his reputation as a seasoned statesman, welcoming a lineup of powerful leaders to Jerusalem just weeks before the election and playing up high-profile photo-ops with everyone from ...*(More on P4)...(14)*

LONDON - Britain's pro-Brexit Conservatives are protesting angrily against Prime Minister Theresa May's decision to seek the opposition party's help in finding a compromise Brexit agreement.

May acknowledged Saturday that, despite her best efforts to persuade lawmakers to back her European Union divorce deal, "there is no sign it can be passed in the near future." She said there was no choice but to reach out to the opposition Labour Party. Other-

UK Conservatives Slam Theresa May's Cross-Party Brexit Talks



wise, she says, Brexit could "slip through our fingers" unless a compromise alternative can be reached with Labour lawmakers.

But leading Conservative Brexiters Jacob Rees-Mogg on Sunday slammed May's move to include Labour in the Brexit talks, and blamed her for failing to take Britain out of the EU already. Three days of cross-party talks so far have ended with no agreement. (Fox News)

Caste Rivals Ally to Beat Ruling Party in India's State



SAHARANPUR, India - Political archrivals in India's most populous state have stitched an inventive political alliance that fuses votes from the ancient

caste system to take on the ruling Hindu nationalist party-led government. The low-caste-dominated Bahujan Samaj Party and Samajwadi Party, which

holds sway among a section of so-called "backward" castes and Muslims, have decided to contest elections in vote-rich Uttar Pradesh state

in a rainbow coalition headed by BSP President Mayawati. The first test of this alliance takes place Sunday in Saharanpur, where Mayawati and SP President Akhilesh Yadav will hold their first election event, rallying support to defeat Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ruling Bharatiya Janata Party. In Uttar Pradesh, lower-caste people are 22% of the population, "backward" people are 45%, and 19% are Muslims. The remaining 14% are upper caste. (Fox News)

Mexico to Purge Nonworking Teachers from Payroll

MEXICO CITY - President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Saturday that his government will conduct a census to determine which teachers are working and purge the rest from the payroll. Speaking in Mexico's western state of Michoacan, the president gestured with a thumb to indicate that any "freeloader" found on the payroll will be tossed. López Obrador plans to federalize education rather than allocate school funds to states. He said some governors

Iron Ore Reserves Discovered in Western Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - Turkmengeologia State Corporation of Turkmenistan has discovered iron ore deposits at the "Gyzylgaya-V" area of the Chagyl deposit in the Gyzylgaya settlement of the Turkmenbashi district in the country's Balkan region, Trend reports with reference to the Neutral Turkmenistan newspaper.

The presence of the corresponding components in the iron ore necessary for the production of cement has been confirmed. During the geological exploration work, 70-75 million tons of iron ore reserves, containing 20 percent of iron, were discovered. In this regard, it is planned to

conduct technological tests of the samples obtained at the Chagyl field, the report said. In July 2018, it was reported that the possibilities of using natural resources of the Tuarkyr mining area in the west of the country were studied. "The use of local raw materials - iron ore - in production of high-strength brands of cement will allow saving about \$10 million annually," the report said. It was also noted that if a metallurgical plant with a capacity of one million tons of iron per year is built on the Gyzylgaya area, the reserves of easily enriched ore of the deposit will last for a century. (Trend)

Iran, Iraq 'Agree on Aerial Defense Cooperation'

TEHRAN - Iran's top military commander says the country and its neighbor Iraq have agreed to cooperate in the area of air defense to fend off the challenges facing their respective air spaces. Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri made the announcement to reporters following a meeting in Tehran with his visiting Iraqi counterpart, Lieutenant General Othman al-Ghanimi, Tasnim News Agency reported on Sunday. The cooperation, Baqeri said, will be aimed at confronting aerial threats. The meeting addressed

"the integrated defense of Iran and Iraq's skies, because we might sense threats coming from the direction of [our] western borders," he added. "Accordingly, it was agreed that the countries' air defense sectors work together and more coordination be made in this regard," the Iranian commander said. Baqeri said the two sides also agreed on potential training cooperation, the transferring of Iran's defensive experiences to Iraq, and joint military exercises. Agreements on these, he added, will be finalized during a future visit by the Iraqi military chief. (Press TV)

Pakistan Releases First Group of 360 Indian Fishermen

ISLAMABAD - Pakistan is releasing 100 Indian fishermen it has detained for illegal fishing in what it calls a "goodwill gesture" toward its rival neighbor. Pakistan is holding some 360 Indian fishermen captive and will release the others later this month, Pakistani media reported. The second group of 100 will be released on April 15, another 100 on April 22, and the fourth release one week later will be for the remaining 60 fishermen, the Foreign Ministry said. The fishermen were all detained for trespassing into Pakistan's territorial waters and violat-

ing international maritime borders. Pakistani prison official Munir Ahmed said on April 7 that the first batch of 100 prisoners will travel by train under police guard to the eastern city of Lahore and given to Indian officials on the Wahga border crossing on April 8. Pakistani and Indian marine patrols frequently arrest each other's fishermen for illegal fishing. Tensions between the two countries have been high since a suicide bombing in the disputed territory of Kashmir — which is controlled by India — killed more than 40 Indian troops in February. (Agencies)

EU, China Struggle to Agree Summit Statement

BRUSSELS - China's refusal to give the EU solid commitments over access to its markets is preventing the two sides from agreeing a joint statement for a high-profile summit next week, European sources said Friday.

Top EU leaders will sit down for talks in Brussels with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on Tuesday but it looks increasingly likely there will be no common declaration at the end, dealing a blow to hopes the meeting could yield a breakthrough in Europe's complex relationship with the Asian giant. The EU is seeking to build on "points of convergence" with China, its second biggest trading partner, but has deep reservations about Beijing's protectionism, trade practices and human rights record. ...*(More on P4)...(16)*

Turkey Says

'Irresponsible' Netanyahu Cannot Change West Bank Status

ISTANBUL - Turkey on Sunday criticized Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as "irresponsible" for saying he would annex Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank if he wins Tuesday's election.

Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu said the West Bank, which Israel seized in the 1967 Middle East war, was Palestinian territory and Israel's occupation violated international law. "Prime Minister Netanyahu's irresponsible statement to seek votes just before the Israeli general elections cannot and will not change this fact," Cavusoglu tweeted. ...*(More on P4)...(17)*

Maldives Leader Celebrates Victory in Parliamentary Election

MALE, Maldives - Maldives President Ibrahim Mohamed Solih's party is leading in the vote count in the parliamentary election and has already declared a landslide victory that could give him a free hand in efforts to restore political freedoms and tackle corruption. The official results are expected late Sunday. Local reports say Solih's Maldivian Democratic Party is leading at 60 out of the 87 seats in Parliament. This could be the first time that a single party



has won the majority in Parliament since the Indian Ocean archipelago nation became a multiparty democracy in 2008 after decades of autocratic rule.

More than 264,000 people were eligible to vote for 386 candidates running for the 87 seats. Voter turnout in Saturday's election was over 78 percent. (Fox News)

Pushing A New Line: Drug Lord El Chapo's Wife Launching a Fashion Brand Bearing His Name

MEXICO - Emma Coronel Aispuro, the wife of the recently convicted Mexican drug cartel boss, Joaquin 'El Chapo' Guzman, has announced the launch of a fashion brand in his name. The idea did not sit well with the US authorities, though. As the kingpin of Mexico's largest Sinaloa drug cartel, once one of the world's most wanted criminals and now facing life in prison, his wife and former US beauty pageant queen has seemingly found an inventive way to capitalize on his name. Earlier this week, Aispuro, 29, announced her

plans to launch an 'El Chapo Guzman' JGL' fashion brand by summer. "I invite clothing designers who are starting out and who want to join the project, to work with me," Aispuro wrote in her Instagram, which has more than 100,000 followers. The drug lord's wife also proudly boasted that her goal was no less than "projecting my style and Joaquin's" as well as to "please everybody." While El Chapo himself is not expected to get anything from this new enterprise, he allegedly personally approved the ...*(More on P4)...(13)*

Manipulation Suspicions Mount in Thailand's Post-Coup Election

BANGKOK - Thailand's first general election since a 2014 army coup has been touted by the ruling military junta as a return to democratic rule, but two weeks after the vote, results are still unclear and allegations of manipulation are mounting. Since the March 24 vote, figures linked to a "democratic front" of opposition parties say they have come under increasing pressure from police and the military.

The Election Commission has also indicated it would use a complex allocation formula for 150 "party seats" in the House of Representatives in a way that would likely dilute the opposition alliance's seats in the 500-seat lower house. The Election Commission has said it won't announce even provisional winners of the 150 party seats until May 9, saying it needs time to order by-elections and vote recounts as well as to disqualify candidates who broke election laws.

But critics say the time gap allows the military-royalist establishment to manipulate results and disqualify opponents of the pro-army Palang Pracharath party that seeks to keep junta leader Prayuth Chan-ocha in power as an elected prime minister. The leading opposition Pheu Thai party, made up of loyalists to army-ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, sees the delays and legal actions as an attempt to deny the "democratic front" enough seats in the House needed to block the main junta-linked ...*(More on P4)...(18)*