

May to Meet Merkel, Macron Ahead of Crucial Brexit Summit

LONDON - British Prime Minister Theresa May will meet with German and French leaders Angela Merkel and Emmanuel Macron as she scrambles to find a Brexit breakthrough ahead of Wednesday's crucial EU summit.

May will meet the two leaders on Tuesday, their offices announced on Monday, the day before the summit where she is expected to ask the bloc for another delay to Brexit.

Britain will fall out of the European Union without a deal on Friday if no delay agreement is reached.

"The chancellor and the British prime minister will have an exchange of views on Britain's exit from the EU as well as on Wednesday's special summit of the European Council," said



Merkel's spokesman Steffen Seibert. May was on Monday to press ahead with her bid to find a "compromise" with the opposition Labour Party despite a backlash from

her own Conservatives. "Our intention is to engage further with the opposition today ... and we hope that will lead to formal face-to-face discussions" later

Monday, a Downing Street spokeswoman said.

- 'Red lines' -

Having failed three times to get her withdrawal deal through parliament, May has been locked in talks with Labour to find a modified plan that could command a majority.

"It'll mean compromise on both sides but I believe that delivering Brexit is the most important thing for us," she said in a video message released on Sunday.

"The longer this takes, the greater the risk of the UK never leaving at all. It would mean letting the Brexit the British people voted for slip through our fingers."

Labour wants a customs union ... (More on P4)...(12)

India to Host Convention to Commemorate World Homeopathy Day

MUMBAI - India will host a two-day convention beginning Tuesday to mark the World Homeopathy Day, said a release by the Ministry of Ayush, which promotes Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy on Monday.

The convention, organized by the Central Council for Research in Homeopathy, part of the Ministry of Ayush, will witness signing of two agreements with Homeopathic colleges and deliberate on linking educa-

tion and clinical practice with research, the release said. India's annual market size for Homeopathy is 516.9 million U.S. dollars with 100 million patients following it out of 500 million patients worldwide with a global market size of 3.73 billion U.S. dollars, according to industry experts.

The council is taking this as an opportunity to review the path undertaken so far, taking stock of the challenges faced and to formulate future strategies for development of Homeopathy. (Xinhua)

Bibi-Trump Bromance: How the Leaders of US & Israel Capitalize on Each Other

WASHINGTON - The incumbent heads of the US and Israel both face an election challenge soon and apparently believe that some intensive mutual back-scratching would be good. RT looks at their bromance.

US President Donald Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu have been tight for quite some time. Even before Trump moved into the Oval Office, Bibi was there for him - telling US lawmakers how Obama's Middle East policies were flawed and how

scrapping the nuclear deal with Iran would be good for Israel. Trump, of course, scrapped the Iran deal, just as he promised on the campaign trail.

Netanyahu was showered with major gestures of US support for his right-wing policies. The Trump administration pulled out of the UN Human Rights Council over its alleged anti-Israeli bias, moved the American Embassy to Jerusalem, and recognized Israel's annexation of Syria's Golan Heights, among other things. The anger of



the Palestinians and protests from other nations had no noticeable effect on these decisions. Less than a week before a crucial general elec-

tion in Israel, which will take place this Tuesday, Trump seemed to be campaigning for Netanyahu. On Friday, he bizarrely ... (More on P4)...(13)

'Ruxit' Would Be 'Blow' Similar to Brexit - Council of Europe Chief



MOSCOW - If Russia is forced to leave the Council of Europe around the same time the UK leaves the EU, it will have disastrous

consequences for the continent, Secretary General of the Council of Europe, Thorbjorn Jagland, has warned. "I believe many people

do not understand what a blow it will be for Europe if we get Brexit and Ruxit at the same time. However, it can happen soon," he told Norwegian news agency NTB, about the possibility of Russia leaving the organization this summer.

Jagland also maintained that the only way to avert this "looming" disaster is to fully reinstate the rights of the Russian delegation in the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe (PACE), which it was deprived of follow-

ing Russia's reunification with Crimea. Back in 2014, after Crimea reunited with Russia as a result of the referendum - a move that European nations treated as "annexation" - Moscow's delegation was stripped of its voting rights in PACE as well as being deprived of the right to take part in the Council of Europe's (CE) monitoring missions or joining the PACE ruling bodies, under rules that Russia called "politically motivated" ... (More on P4)...(14)

S.Africa Court Says Mozambique Ex-Minister can be Extradited to US

JOHANNESBURG - A South African court ruled Monday that a Mozambican ex-finance minister, held since December on a US warrant over corruption allegations, can be extradited to the United States. But the future of the defendant, Manuel Chang, was not immediately resolved, as the court was to rule later Monday on a rival extradition request from Mozambique. Chang, 63, was arrested at Johannesburg's main airport on December 29 over alleged involvement in \$2 billion (1.76 billion euros)

of fraudulent loans to Mozambican state firms.

Magistrate William Schutte ruled that "there is evidence that Manuel Chang has committed the crimes he is charged with and that all conditions are met so he can be tried in the United States".

With both the US and Mozambique having issued their own extradition requests over the scandal that has shaken the poor southern African country, the court said only the justice ministry can decide where to surrender him. (AFP)

Uzbek Chemical Enterprises Manufacture Products Worth Over \$193 M

TASHKENT - Enterprises of Uzkimyosanoat JSC manufactured marketable products in the amount of 1.636.8 trillion soums (\$193.736 million) in January-March 2019, Trend reports via Uzbek media. This figure is 20.6 percent more than for the same period last year. Chemical enterprises produced 334,960 tons of mineral fertilizers, including 252,170 tons of nitrogen fertilizers, 37,770 tons of phosphate fertilizers and 45,020 tons of potash fertilizers.

During the reporting period, 1,276.5 million tons of mineral fertilizers were put up for trading in physical weight, of which 681,700 tons were sold. Uzkimyosanoat is an

integrated corporate structure that combines chemical enterprises of the Republic of Uzbekistan. The company develops and sells industrial, innovation, marketing program development of chemical plants, thus creating the conditions and prerequisites for the sustainable development of the industry as a whole. The company comprises 14 industrial enterprises, 13 regional distribution organizations involved in the implementation of mineral fertilizers to agriculture, scientific research and design institutes, foreign freight forwarding organization "Kime-trans" and "Kime-trans Logistics", and brokerage company "Hamkor-kimeservis". (Trend)

Central Asian Tour of Korean President to Begin from Turkmenistan

ASHGABAT - The Central Asian tour of the President of the Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in will begin on April 16 from Turkmenistan, Trend reports referring to the Korean media.

The Korea Times newspaper writes that the Korean president's tour will begin with a 3-day state visit to Ashgabat, where he will meet with the Turkmen President Gurbanguly Berdimuhamedov. The tour will then continue in Uzbekistan and end in Kazakhstan. President Moon Jae-in will visit the countries of the former Soviet bloc for the first time since taking office in 2017. Among the key issues

that will be discussed at the planned presidential summits are the potential economic benefits from cooperation within the framework of Seoul's New Northern Economic Policy, according to the newspaper. Seoul hopes for partnership with Turkmenistan in such spheres as the development of gas fields, the creation of petrochemical and gas infrastructure and modernization of industry. According to the Turkmen side, the total trade turnover of Turkmenistan and South Korea has grown from \$200 million to nearly \$2 billion in recent years. (Trend)

Among the key issues

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UN Chief Spotlights Universal Health Coverage

UNITED NATIONS - UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spotlighted the importance of universal health coverage to mark the World Health Day, which falls on Sunday. In his message for the day, Guterres pointed out that half the world's population is still unable to obtain the essential health services they need.

He added that universal health coverage is about changing the situation and ensuring equitable access to health services for all without people experiencing financial hardship as a result. (Xinhua)

India's Ruling Party Releases Manifesto Days before Election

NEW DELHI - India's ruling party has released its election manifesto three days before polling in the world's largest democracy begins.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and other leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party hoping to return to power for a second five-year term laid out their platform on Monday, emphasizing national security and economic development.

Finance Minister Arun Jaitley said that the government "wants to expedite the path of progress." Jaitley also cited an Indian airstrike against an alleged terrorist camp in Pakistan after a suicide bomber killed 40 Indian soldiers in disputed Kashmir in February.

The main opposition Congress party released its manifesto last week, blasting the Hindu nationalist BJP for working "to divide the nation." (Fox News)

Seoul Confirms Controversial Academic as N. Korea Point Man

SEOUL - South Korean President Moon Jae-in on Monday confirmed the appointment of a pro-engagement academic as his new point man on Pyongyang, despite controversy over his outspoken support for cooperation with the nuclear-armed North.

The confirmation of Kim Yeon-chul as the new unification minister comes days before Moon flies to Washington for a summit with President Donald Trump as he seeks to rekindle dialogue between the US and North



Korea after a failed summit in Hanoi in February. The dovish South Korean president brokered the talks process between Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which led

to their first landmark summit in Singapore last June. But at times security allies Seoul and Washington have appeared to diverge on their approach ... (More on P4)...(15)

Japan's Abe to Visit US, France on Pre-G20 Tour

TOKYO - Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe announced Monday plans to visit the United States, Canada and France this month before his country hosts the G20 later this year. The tour from April 22 to 29 will also include stops in Italy, Belgium and Slovakia, a foreign ministry official said.

The trip comes ahead of long-awaited trade talks between Washington and Tokyo, as US President Donald Trump looks to negotiate a bilateral deal and threatens auto tariffs. The visit to France comes at a sensi-

time, with ex-Nissan chief Carlos Ghosn, who holds French citizenship, back behind bars in Tokyo.

He was re-arrested last week while out on bail and faces multiple charges of financial misconduct.

Abe said the trip was intended to "affirm close co-operation for success in the G20 summit in Osaka", which will be held June 28 and 29.

Trump is also expected to visit Japan in May to become the first foreign head of state to meet Japan's new emperor, Naruhito, who will be enthroned on May 1. (AFP)

Expected Bloodbath in Tripoli an Outcome of Ill-Advised NATO Toppling of Gaddafi, Historian Tells RT

TRIPOLI - Libya is back in the headlines after one of its two competing governments sent troops towards Tripoli. If another bloodbath happens there, it will be the inevitable result of the 2011 NATO bombing campaign, an expert told RT.

The Northern African country was once stable and quite prosperous thanks to large revenues from oil trade. But since 2011, when NATO supported a militant uprising and helped topple, then kill, longtime strongman leader Muammar Gaddafi, it remains a fractured failed state. Last week, the unending feuds between rival factions escalated, with Khalifa Haftar, a powerful military commander, launching an offensive against his rivals from the UN-recognized government in Tripoli.

The general is unlikely to immediately heed calls for a political settlement, believes US political commentator and historian Gerald Horne. This may escalate into a major battle in the capital.

"You may well expect a bloodbath to unfold in Tripoli. Which is quite tragic and unfortunate, but I'd say it's the inevitable outcome of the ill-advised attack by NATO, led by the US, that resulted in the 2011 overthrow of Gaddafi," he told RT. The blowback from Gaddafi's ouster is undeniable and has had a profound effect on other nations, not only in Africa but also in Europe. (RT)